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THE RIGHT TO BE SAGGY**

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD **metroVIEWS**

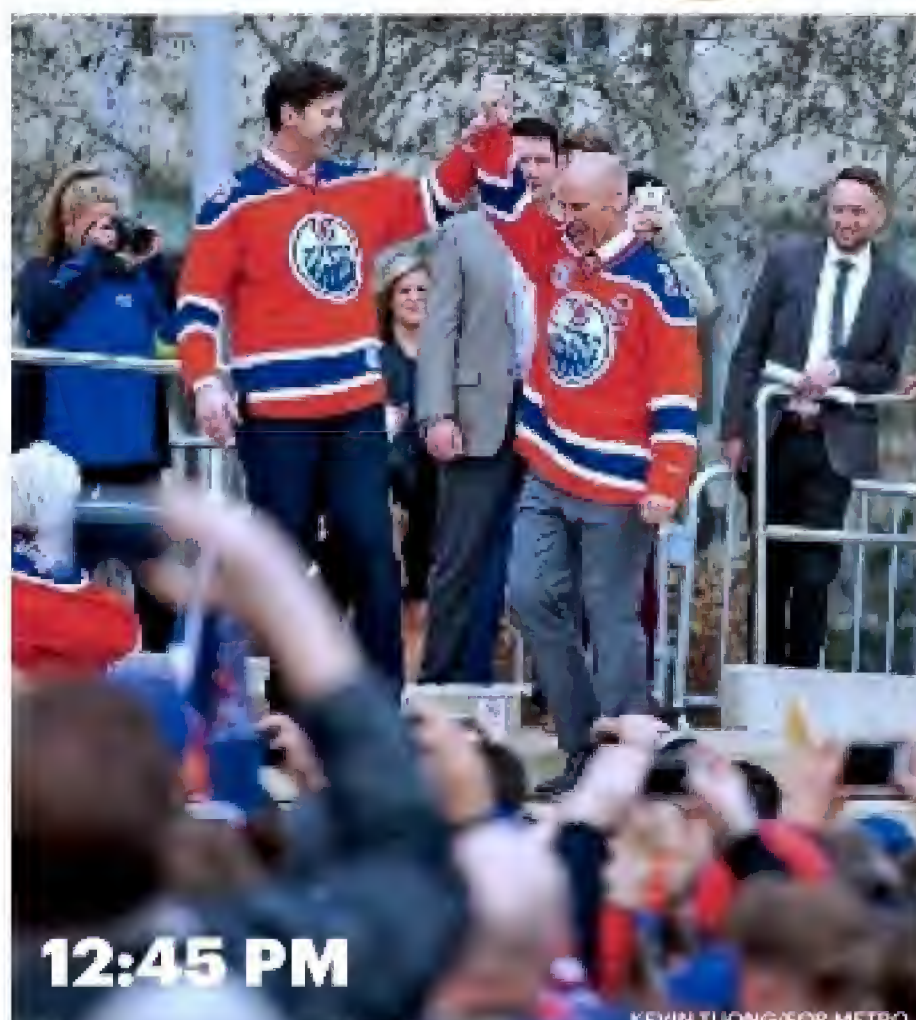


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The great goodbye



12:45 PM

KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO



4:05 PM

THE CANADIAN PRESS



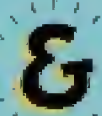
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THE CANADIAN PRESS

The day finally came for Edmonton: Oilers fans and the team's biggest stars bid adieu to an arena the Great One and company put on the map

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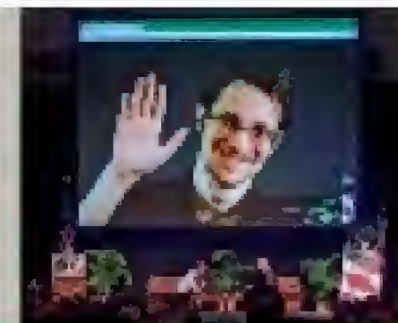


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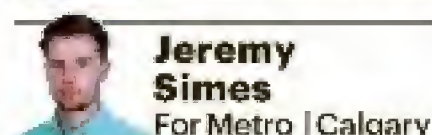


HEALTH CARE

Minister responds to AHS bombshell



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton



Jeremy Simes
For Metro | Calgary

Health Minister Sarah Hoffman is defending her government's interventions at Alberta Health Services after its former CEO described those actions as political interference in a scathing resignation letter.

Vickie Kaminski resigned last November as CEO of AHS and, according to reports by CBC News — which obtained her resignation letter — said in her letter that “many examples” of heavy-handedness from the government were putting her professional reputation in jeopardy.

“Some of the examples transcend both the former government and the newly elected government of Alberta,” the CBC said Kaminski wrote. “More recently however, many (examples of political interference) are simply rooted in an ideology of the new government that does not allow AHS to do what needs to be, and should be done.”

Hoffman said the government sets health policy and, at times, Kaminski seemed to push an agenda more in line with the previous PC government than

the NDP.

“It felt like that could have been the case from time to time,” she said.

Hoffman said the government was elected on promises that it has been working to execute.

“We ran on a platform of ending experiments in privatization, looking at evidence and making sure we worked with communities,” she said.

Hoffman said she could sense Kaminski's frustration at times, but the government sets policy.

“Public health care is certainly one of the biggest things that Albertans count on their government to deliver,” she said.

Wildrose Leader Brian Jean said Kaminski's letter is an indication the government isn't respecting AHS' independence.

“This NDP government is interfering politically and as we know political interference causes tremendous problems,” he said.

According to CBC, in the letter Kaminski also complained she was directed by Deputy Health Minister Carl Amrhein to communicate in “voice mode” to ensure there was no paper trail that could be obtained through freedom of information.

Hoffman said she doesn't believe that was his intent.

“That certainly isn't the kind of relationship that I have with him.”

“We ran on a platform of ending experiments in privatization... and making sure we worked with communities. Minister Sarah Hoffman

FAT: Own it, says woman

HUMAN RIGHTS

Fired for using term, then asked back, she stands firm



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

The employee of a plus-size clothing chain fired this week for using the word “fat” on her Facebook page has been offered her job back, but says she doesn't want it.

“I don't think it would be appropriate to continue working there,” said Connie Levitsky, who Addition Elle fired from its West Edmonton Mall store Tuesday.

Levitsky uses the word “fat” as a way to identify herself and said Addition Elle fired her after it saw that she used the word on her Facebook page, to describe her new position at the store.

The description read: “Conquering the world, one well-dressed fat lady at a time.”

Levitsky said representatives from the company were “incredibly sorry” in a phone call Wednesday, but though she appreciated the gesture, vocabulary is too important.

“I feel that they have expressed that they still don't wish to be associated with the word ‘fat,’ and that is an issue for me,” Levitsky, a sociology student, said.

Levitsky said Addition Elle initially said she could keep her job if she deleted the word, but was eventually fired. She said the company prefers terms like “curvy,” or “shapely.”

But Levitsky said she's tired of euphemisms and stands by her choice of words.

“I feel that it's incredibly important for bigger women to embrace ‘fat’ as a descriptor rather than an insult,” she said. “When you silence or censor a word like fat you're essentially reinforcing the idea that fat people are something that are to be looked down upon, or be disgusted with or to be ignored.”

“We believe that anyone should use whatever words they are comfortable with when describing themselves and whatever makes them feel empowered,” it said.

Addition Elle later posted a statement on its Facebook page that said it took Levitsky's use of “fat” out of context.

“We recognize that letting her go was a mistake and have apologized to our employee for any hurt this may have caused her.”

But the words weren't enough for Levitsky to rethink her own.

“I think part of loving yourself and accepting yourself is you have to reclaim words that have been used to hurt you,” she said.

“I'm a lot of things, I'm a student, I'm someone who really believes in social justice, I have a cat, I'm short, I have brown hair,” she said.

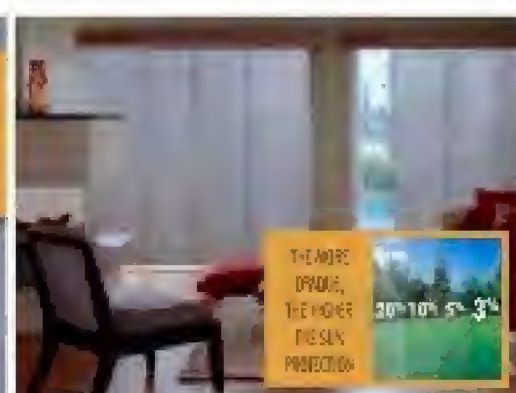
“at the end of the day being fat is just another identity.”

Connie Levitsky was fired from her job at Addition Elle for using the word “fat” in her Facebook job description.

KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO



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Memories of a place called Rexall

The Great One didn't build Northlands Coliseum, which became Rexall Place, but he certainly built its place in the minds of many. From those highs to more recent but enduring lows, the modest building has become part of our identity. As it hosted its last game Wednesday, Metro found four perspectives on the 41-year-old arena and the team that has given it life for decades.

Former Oilers remember

Hall of Fame goaltender Grant Fuhr says changing venues will put more pressure on the current Edmonton Oilers to find success.



STEVE BARINEAU/VIU VIA GETTY IMAGES

He's hoping it works.

The former dynasty Oiler and Spruce Grove native remembers moving to the Coliseum — now Rexall Place — from the old Edmonton Gardens in the '70s.

"Anytime that a city outgrows a facility, it shows how much progression the city has made," he said.

One of his favourite memories of Rexall Place was the nerves that players encountered every time they were called upstairs

to General Manager Glen Sather's office, which was located inside the building in the 1980s. Another ex-Oiler goalie, Jussi Markkanen, said deafening crowds were his favourite memory from the team's last playoff run in 2006 when they lost to the Carolina Hurricanes in the Cup finals.

"It felt like the whole city was inside that building," Markkanen said. "You couldn't hear your own voice on the ice." KEVIN MAIMANN/FOR METRO



The Oilers take to the ice for the final time at Rexall Place Wednesday THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man says goodbye to barn he helped build

Reinhold Lutter had a brief exchange with the usher as he handed him his ticket for the final game at Rexall Place Wednesday.

Then he reflected on the end for a building that he helped create.

He was working as a drywaller in the '70s when his boss said he needed guys to work on Northlands Coliseum.

"It was a lot of work, but we had a lot of fun," he said.

It opened November 1974, the same year he married his wife Julie. Four children and hundreds of Oilers games later, Lutter found himself back at Rexall for the final NHL game with his son Aaron, who gave him the tickets for his 65th birthday.

Lutter said being at the game brings closure to a long and exciting chapter in his life.

"I still remember how crazy it was when the Oilers won their first cup... But that is an exciting young team they have now." BRANDON MACLEOD/FOR METRO



BRANDON MACLEOD/FOR METRO

Superfan a little sour

Ryan Batty has put his favourite team on notice. While thousands of Edmonton Oilers fans celebrated the team's last game at Rexall Place Wednesday, Batty said many are losing patience with one of the worst clubs in National Hockey League history.

"It's hard," said Batty, a season ticket holder who runs fan website coppernblue.com

"The NHL is entertainment, and you're supposed to have fun. And the Oilers have

managed to make this a lot less fun than it used to be."

The Oilers have missed the playoffs for the tenth straight season, tying the Florida Panthers for an NHL record.

Batty figures fans will flock to Rogers Place to check out the new building this fall, but they might jump ship soon after if they don't see any improvement.

Batty's season tickets went up 30 per cent for worse seats at Rogers Place than he had at Rexall, after already increasing 20 per cent over the past two seasons.

"They've got a year where it's not going to be a problem," Batty said. But just a year. KEVIN MAIMANN/FOR METRO



KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO



SUPPLIED

Business owner optimistic

Fireside Steak and Pizza owner Con Stavropoulos says he'll miss the extra traffic that came with Oilers games at Rexall Place.

But Stavropoulos — who started his business a year before the coliseum opened in 1974 on 72 Street and 118 Avenue — is optimistic that whatever goes into the Rexall Place building once the Oilers leave will still draw crowds.

"The way I look at it, if they keep on getting something else here, it will be just as good," he

said. The timing is well suited for Stavropoulos, who's nearing retirement and was already planning to sell the building to a younger entrepreneur.

The best days for attracting hockey fans are in the past, he said. Traffic was heaviest at his restaurant on winning nights, which have been few and far between lately.

"If the Oilers win, we get a lot of people," Stavropoulos said. "If they're losing, we don't get too many."

KEVIN MAIMANN/FOR METRO

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Uzair Ahmed, owner of InstaMek, says he's disappointed with the provincial government's delays on its job creation plan. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Job plan delay 'a slap in the face'

ECONOMY

Small business owner says company could lose \$15K



Sanam Islam
Metro | Edmonton

For months, small business owner Uzair Ahmed has been waiting patiently for the Alberta government to launch its promised job creation plan.

Four months after the program was supposed to be in place, his patience is wearing thin.

He said he's hired three full-time employees for his on-demand auto repair company, InstaMek, since January. And

he said he did so under the assumption that he would be reimbursed 10 per cent of their salaries — \$5,000 each — under the program.

Last Tuesday, Ahmed said he contacted the minister of economic development and trade's office to get an update on the initiative, which was supposed to start in January.

"The woman I spoke to said the job creation program is under review, that it's being refreshed, so they're going to look into it. It might go up and it might go down, it might be cancelled, and there's no deadline," Ahmed said. "That's like the worst answer in the world."

If the program is cancelled, Ahmed said the business would feel the effect.

"Ten per cent makes a lot of difference. It would really tighten things up," he said. "It's a slap in the face.... You think this gov-

ernment cares about small businesses, but they don't."

Metro placed calls to Economic Development and Trade Minister Darren Bilous but did not get a response.

In early March, spokesperson Marion Nader told Metro the government wouldn't cut the program, but couldn't confirm it would move ahead as originally planned.

Ahmed said he had been looking to hire a fourth employee, but with no guarantees about the job grant and a tough economy, he's put those plans on hold.

He said he is also considering moving his business — which also has offices in Calgary and Toronto — elsewhere.

"We'll see how things go for a year before we decide.... If we want to be a nationwide company and grow quickly we have to have the right incentive to stay."

IN BRIEF

Seniors bill introduced

Alberta is introducing new rules for seniors who want to stay in their homes but need loans for home repairs and renovations.

"(This) will help seniors remain secure and independent in their own homes," Seniors Minister Lori Sigurdson said Wednesday.

It would allow Sigurdson's department to hand out loans to homeowners over 65 for up to \$40,000 in home improvements related to quality of life.

The province expects to help about 260,000 seniors or 145,000 households.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

COMMUNITY

Alberta mayors share poverty-ending plans

Kevin Maimann
For Metro | Edmonton

Calgary Mayor Naheed Nenshi says community members, and businesses in particular, have to work together to remove barriers for the 15 per cent of Canadians who live in poverty.

Nenshi talked about such "poverty traps" during his stop in Edmonton Wednesday for the "Cities Reducing Poverty" conference.

"You can go to your human resources department and say, 'Can we eliminate those dirty words 'Canadian experience'

from our hiring criteria?' ... We can look at our human resources policies and say, 'Are we allowing our employees who may not have a great grasp of English, the opportunity to take English courses at lunch?'" Nenshi said.

"These are simple, low-cost solutions that help lots of people escape poverty traps ..."

Edmonton Mayor Don Iveson said our city is generally lauded as one of the best in Canada at running the Housing First program, but affordable spaces have been tough to find lately in a "very tight" market.

The three-day conference wraps up Thursday.

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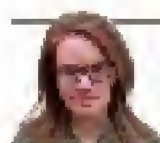


A screenshot from Siege of Dragonspear, a Baldur's Gate expansion. METRO

Transgender hero sparks criticism

VIDEO GAMES

Developers have been threatened: Beamdog head



Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

Online gamers have heaped criticism on Edmonton video-game developer Beamdog for their inclusion of a transgender character in a game, saddening one long-time fantasy writer.

Last week, the company — founded by former Bioware creatives — released Siege of Dragonspear, an expansion to Baldur's Gate, which is a Dungeons & Dragons game generally considered to be one of the world's best role-playing games.

Siege of Dragonspear features a character called Mizhena, who identifies as transgender, plus a joke about "Gamergate."

Both of those elements have generated online vitriol.

Comments include accusations that Beamdog is pushing the "gay agenda," including "feminist garbage" and "handfasting (sic) showing their political opinions" into a classic game.

A few commenters identifying themselves as members of the LGBTQ community also chimed in to call the character "poorly written" and "patronizing."

There are also complaints about the writing and the bugginess of the game.

But the comments about the Mizhena character have become personal, said Trent Oster, the CEO of Beamdog, in a statement.

"Some of the negative feedback has focused not on Siege of Dragonspear but on individual developers at Beamdog — to the point of online threats and harassment," said Oster. "I want to make it crystal clear that Beamdog does not condone this behaviour, and moreover that it will not have the desired effect as we stand behind

all our developers 100 per cent."

He added the company will be making changes in the future.

"In retrospect, it would have been better served if we had introduced a transgender character with more development. This is a lesson we will be carrying forward in our development as creators and we will be improving the character in a future update."

Ed Greenwood, a Canadian-born fantasy writer and creator of several Dungeons & Dragons articles and books, posted a note on Facebook Tuesday to say he's "saddened" by the criticism of the trans character.

Greenwood pointed out that the games have a history of magical objects and deities changing gender, plus half-orcs, half-dragons and half-elves.

"Surely, if you can handle the basic notion of cross-SPECIES sex, having a full variety of gender roles should be something that doesn't blow your mind."



We will be improving the character in a future update.

Trent Oster

INFRASTRUCTURE

Queen Alexandra group gets city on board with project



Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

Viewing city officials as friends, not foes, has been crucial to the success of a south-central Edmonton group that's long been fighting for separate bike lanes.

The QA Crossroads group helped the city develop draft plans for the 106 Street and 76 Avenue redesign, which will be unveiled Thursday at St. Basil's

Cultural Centre.

Those draft plans currently include separate bike lanes — something that wasn't in the original proposal from the city.

"We view the city as our ally. They have the technical and engineering expertise to make the community members' vision come to life," said group member Emily Vespi. "I think that's really what's made us successful, is working together."

Aside from separate bike lanes, the group is pushing for infra-

structure like raised crosswalks to increase pedestrian safety, with the overall aim of making the area more walkable, bikeable and liveable.

Proposed changes would remove parking along approximately 20 residential blocks and narrow vehicle lanes, in exchange for separate bike lanes that would replace "sharrows" currently painted on the road.

The reconstruction will take place in 2017.

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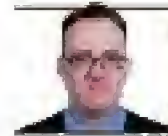
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Mosquito numbers 'low'

Q&A

The city's bug guru chimes in on what's in store for 2016



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

With the warm weather ahead, the city's collective grievances over snow and cold can now switch focus to mosquitoes. Metro spoke with Mike Jenkins, the city's resident bug expert, about what to expect from those buzzing bothers.

What kind of bug season are we in for this season?

We had a really dry winter and the snow has basically been gone for some time already, so there's not an awful lot in terms of standing water and snow melt out there.

It's pretty dry across most of our control program area. There are some areas where there are pools of water



Edmonton's biological services technician Mike Jenkins says the risk of mosquitoes carrying Zika to Edmonton are remote.

METRO FILE

and little temporary spring ponds.

There is some development occurring out there and it's actually a little further

along than we normally see. We are going after those, but it's looking like fairly low numbers compared to what we would normally get.

Does that bode well? Will we have low mosquito numbers?

It's really hard to say because that depends on what happens with rainfall going through the rest of April and into May. If we get tons of rainfall that could quickly change and we could get lots of hatching all over the place.

At this point we are not expecting any significant precipitation or rainfall and it looks like we will have plenty of time to get after the mosquitoes that are hatching

A lot of people have Zika virus on their mind. Is that a risk here?

It's very, very, incredibly remote. The Zika virus itself is actually carried by the same mosquito that carries dengue fever and yellow fever, so we have about (the) same risk from Zika virus as we do have those.

There are some weird things happening with Zika virus at the moment. It appears that it may be able to switch to different hosts, so if it is moving to other mos-

quito species that could potentially change the risk.

Most of the other potential mosquito species they are looking at are also species that we don't have.

There has been some debate over the use of Dursban. Are we using that this year?

Dursban 2.5G is a mosquito larva-cide that Edmonton is pretty much the last municipality with stockpiles of.

We still have the Dursban 2.5G. We are keeping it in particular, because Edmonton has the potential to have really cold springs, but we still have mosquito larvae developing.

That is one of the things that we kept it around for, for use in those kinds of situations. This spring it's very warm and the mosquitoes are out and developing in open water, there is no ice over top of it. So we are not planning on using the Dursban for that purpose, so at this point we are not expecting to use Dursban at all in 2016.

CHARITY

Dream Lottery off target

Another charitable lottery is struggling to sell tickets in Alberta's down economy, just as the service they provide is seeing more demand.

The Big Brothers Big Sisters Dream Home Lottery remains well behind its goal for ticket sales with just over a month before their draw date.

"We haven't even broken even yet, we expect we will by the end of week," said Lana Tordoff.

The campaign started on Jan. 8 and sales will close on May 9, which was an extension from the original cut-off date. She said they have sold about 54 per cent.

She said everything this year has been harder than it usually is and advertising campaigns or other events that usually lead to a surge in tickets sales have not had the same effect.

Tordoff said the revenue from the lottery would help the charity pay to support about 700 kids through after-school and mentorship programs.

"This is a big portion of our annual budget," she said.

RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

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SERVICE PROVIDERS

Disability contracts lose 'gag' clause

Jeremy Simes &
Alex Boyd
Metro | Edmonton

Though the NDP government has removed what the Wildrose describes as a "gag clause" for service providers helping people with disabilities, Alberta's largest disability services group thinks the newly developed contracts require an overhaul.

The Human Services Department has delayed the implementation of new contract templates for disability service providers, after disability advocates raised concerns over their contents.

One clause, in particular, stated, "No press release, public announcement or other public commentary relating to this Contract shall be made by the Contractor without the prior written approval of the Province," according to a draft received by Metro.

Aaron Manton, spokesman for Human Services Minister Irfan Sabir, said the department removed that clause as soon as concerns were raised, noting it was initially included to reflect common legal language.

"We will be removing the provisions that could impair the ability of service providers to advocate for their clients, which should not have been included in the first place," he said. "All Albertans have the right to advocate for themselves and those in their care."

The provincial government is in the process of creating new contracts in an attempt to create fewer, more overarching versions, and therefore simplify the system — but advocates say it's just created new headaches.

Post also expressed concern over requirements about potentially unfunded liabilities for service providers; and new clauses that in essence micro-manage agencies and require the removal staff upon request.

Manton said the government has reached out to the Alberta Council of Disability Services to reiterate its commitment to working through any concerns.

The contracts will be implemented eventually after more details are worked out.



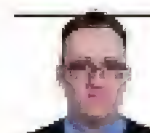
All Albertans have the right to advocate for themselves and those in their care.

Aaron Manton

Youth wait for next steps on transgender policies

SCHOOLS

Students to province: Put more pressure on boards



Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Edmonton

Students from across the province said they're happy with the work the NDP have done to support LGBT youth, but are hoping Minister David Eggen is willing to take a tough stand with school boards.

Eggen invited students who were part of their schools' Gay Straight Alliance or Queer Straight Alliance to the legislature Wednesday.

Grade 11 student Daniel McAndrew, who's part of the GSA at the Boyle Street Education Centre, said he wants to understand what will happen after the new policies for transgender youth are in place.

Eggen received those policies on March 31, after mandating that all boards develop one.

"There will probably be some abuses of the policy and some complete disregards, because right now there aren't any concrete repercussions," McAndrew said.

He said his school has a good



There will probably be some abuses of the policy and some complete disregards, because right now there aren't any concrete repercussions.

Daniel McAndrew



Daniel McAndrew is part of the GSA at his school. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

policy, which he worked with staff to develop, but he wants that to be the case everywhere.

"The government should be pushing school boards, be it public, private, Catholic or charter in my case, they should be pushing them a lot stronger."

David Merry, part of the GSA

at his school in Red Deer, said the NDP should be applauded for what they have done so far.

"They have done a tremendous job so far. I am very happy with my NDP government for what they have done for queer people throughout the province," he said.

He also wants to know what happens next, however.

"They just need to put a little pressure on the boards that are taking their sweet time to develop the policy."

Eggen said only one board has failed to meet his deadline for new transgender policies

and he intends to work with all boards to make sure they have adequate policies.

"In that spirit of collaboration, over these next few weeks we will work together with board to make sure board policies are keeping with the legislation."

ENVIRONMENT

Climate plan shifting oilsands perception, says lead author

The lead architect of Alberta's climate change plan says that despite some opposition, the initiative is helping shift the debate on the province's biggest resource.

"I think you've seen a very different framing of the oilsands nationally and internationally," said Andrew Leach, who led Alberta's climate change advisory panel.

It's all part of a changing dialogue globally on greenhouse gas policy, he said in a recent interview, pointing to the Paris climate accord and a Canada-U.S. agreement on methane reductions.

"It's moved a long way just over the past year, and I think our work is part of that, and I think a lot of other people have played a role as well, but I think the conversation has moved a long way," said Leach.

Nonetheless, Leach says, Alberta's action on climate change isn't going to suddenly open up export routes for oilsands crude.

"What I don't think anyone should have expected was that the carbon pricing question was the only thing affecting oilsands development," said Leach. "The spill risk view, whether accurate or not, is still a perceived risk to people and it's not going to change with carbon pricing in Alberta."

He says the 100-megatonne cap on oilsands emissions set by the province's NDP government, while not part of his recommendations, sends the right signal.

"It creates the tension in the system to say, look, if we want to grow barrels, we need to improve technology, and that's the signal the world markets are sending anyway," said Leach.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ IN ACTION

Eye on upcoming budget

Since completing the report, Leach no longer has an official role on the provincial climate change file, but he's been busy giving talks and sending out many thousands of tweets in defence of the plan. He says he's been frustrated by the critics who don't consider the implications of alternative options.

Leach says he'll be looking to next week's provincial budget to see details on the climate change plan, especially how the NDP government plans to manage the proceeds of the carbon pricing.

OIL TROUBLES

Premier to outline economic plan on TV

One week before her government is to introduce its budget, Premier Rachel Notley is to deliver a 15-minute talk on TV about the economic challenges facing Alberta families.

Notley's pre-recorded address is to be broadcast Thursday at 6:45 p.m. on CTV and Global stations.

The premier delivers the chat while sitting at the kitchen table in her home.

Notley says she will outline her government's plan to create jobs and help families through the economic shock created by low oil prices.

The total cost for production and air time for the televised address is pegged at \$90,000.

Notley's staff say she decided to do the TV talk after hearing concerns about the economic downturn from people around the province.

+ OPPOSITION

The government says Opposition Leader Brian Jean is being offered the opportunity to reply to Notley's address at a later date.

"There is no doubt the oil price collapse is causing serious economic pain and it's a scary time for many families," Notley said Wednesday in a release. "I want to talk directly to Albertans about what we're up against and walk them through our plan to get Alberta through this."

Her staff said Notley will not release specific budget numbers but will use graphics to show how slumping oil prices are affecting the province.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Snowden praises leaker

DEMOCRACY

Panama Papers show a 'vital' need for more whistleblowers



Matt Kieleyka
Metro | Vancouver

The need for whistleblowers is greater than ever following the release of the Panama Papers, Edward Snowden told a Vancouver audience Tuesday evening.

The National Security Agency whistleblower appeared via web link at Queen Elizabeth Theatre for a Simon Fraser University Public Square forum on big data, moderated by CBC journalist Laura Lynch.

Inevitably, Snowden — who exposed mass surveillance by the United States government and its allies in 2013 and who is currently living in Russia for fear of arrest — was asked about the release of the Panama Papers this week.

The papers, reportedly the



Edward Snowden speaks to CBC journalist Laura Lynch via web-link during a Simon Fraser University Public Square forum on big data in Vancouver on Tuesday. SCREENGAB

biggest data leak in history, contain the private database of law firm Mossack Fonseca and reveals how offshore tax havens are used by companies and individuals, including some world leaders, to avoid billions of dollars in taxes.

"We have found that countries where we might have suspected this kind of corruption — such as China, Ukraine and Russia — were not alone," said Snowden. "This reveals that one of the founding premises of democracy, which is that

one law applies equally to both the powerful and the powerless, is beginning to change. And it happens without our knowledge, our awareness and without our consent.

"The most privileged and the most powerful members

of society are operating under a different set of rules that exempt them from not only the same laws to which we are held, not only the same standards of behaviours to which we are held, but they don't even pay the same taxes that we do," he continued. "And yet (they are) the ones who benefit the most from the structures of society."

The leak and the subsequent fallout worldwide shows the need for whistleblowers, Snowden said.

"I think that this shows, more than ever, the role of the whistleblower in free society has become not only desirable but vital."

Asked by Lynch whether he had been in contact with the leaker of the Panama Papers, whose identity remains unknown, Snowden managed to conjure a laugh out of the sold-out crowd.

"If they had, I could not say one way or another. But for the record, I haven't," Snowden said, adding it's for the best. "I'm probably under a lot more monitoring than the average journalist."

WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

TAX EVASION

Trudeau urges global crackdown

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Wednesday the international community has to work together to make global finance more transparent to prevent the sort of inequality highlighted by the so-called Panama Papers scandal.

Otherwise, rich investors will simply "hop" around to favourable jurisdictions where they can avoid paying tax, Trudeau said.

"The level of awareness that citizens of the world are beginning to take in regards to tax avoidance and evasion is a good thing," Trudeau said. "But it's certainly something that we will be working on together as a community of nations."

Trudeau was asked about the matter in Montreal, where the annual general meeting of the Royal Bank of Canada — the only Canadian bank linked to the data leak — was also taking place Wednesday. Media reports say the bank used Mossack Fonseca, a Panamanian law firm at the centre of the data leak, to set up more than 370 shell companies. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Critics want agency to release name of fined bank

Why is the federal anti-money-laundering agency tight-lipped about the name of the first Canadian bank found to violate its regulations, but publicly shaming smaller players?

That's what a wide-ranging group of critics want to know about the first-ever penalty against a bank by the Financial Transactions and Reports Analysis Centre of Canada.

The terrorism and money-laundering watchdog, known as Fintrac, announced Tuesday that it has issued a \$1.1-million fine against an undisclosed financial institution for failing to report a suspicious trans-

action and various other infractions.

"Our criminal and administrative law regime is based on disclosure of wrongdoing, not on secrecy of wrongdoing," said Christine Duhaime, a lawyer who specializes in anti-money-laundering law.

"Joe Average who is fined for any administrative infraction is not afforded secrecy in this way and the rules should apply to all Canadians, legal and natural persons, equally."

Fintrac said Tuesday's announcement is meant to deter others from failing to report.

But the bank's name was not added to a list of violators published on the agency's website, despite page showing the names of many smaller companies.

Fintrac collects millions of pieces of data from 31,000 businesses every year and analyzes them for suspicious activity. Those businesses are legally required to report certain financial activities — anything from cash transactions of more than \$10,000 to a disguised customer.

The centre has legal power to use its discretion on whether to publicly name companies



the rules should apply to all Canadians, legal and natural persons, equally. Christine Duhaime

it has fined. The recent unnamed financial institution isn't the only case where it has taken exception — the companies involved in 34 of the 74 monetary penalties the agency has levied since 2008 have not been disclosed, said spokesman Darren Gibb.

In the case of the bank, the agency decided it was in the public interest to publish the details of the penalty to "send a strong message of de-

trying hard to comply, while letting bigger players off the hook.

He believes the bank's name was kept secret because it has resources at its disposal to give Fintrac a legal headache. Meanwhile, he feels powerless when trying to get answers about why it fined his company, which now faces bankruptcy over what he says is an unjust fine.

The first-ever Canadian bank penalty has come to light amid heightened awareness about money laundering in the wake of the so-called Panama Papers. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS

Canadian man is world's fastest jogger



Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Canada is home to the fastest half marathon jogger in the world.

Toronto's Michal Kapral got the word Monday from Guinness World Records that the 1 hour and 20 minutes it took him to complete the 2014 Scotiabank Toronto Waterfront half marathon while juggling three balls set a new bar.

As far as Kapral is concerned,

it's just the first formal recognition of his many successes. He's pretty sure he's been unofficially setting and breaking records since picking up jogging and juggling many years ago.

"I've always liked to try and do all sorts of things while running," Kapral said, noting he once ran a full marathon while pushing his daughter in a stroller.

But, he considers juggling "the best sport almost no one has heard of."

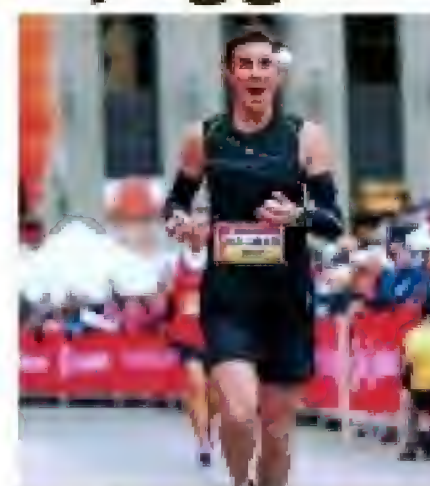
Running, he said, is an "addiction" that's proven impossible

to shake. Juggling, meanwhile, can be seen as a metaphor for how we lead our lives.

"We're all running our life marathon," Kapral said. "If you drop a ball, you've got to pick it up and keep going."

In October, Kapral plans to compete against joggers from around the world during a marathon in Chicago. It shouldn't prove too much of an issue since he's already mastered the strategy.

"You've just got to get into the zone," he said. "If you overthink it, you quickly drop the ball."



Michal Kapral juggling. COURTESY CHRISTINE SPINGOLA/CANADA RUNNING SERIES

POLITICS

Libs launch review to decide future size and shape of Canada's military

The Trudeau government has embarked on its long-awaited review on the future of the Canadian Armed Forces. Defence Minister Harjit Sajjan has laid out the process and is asking for public input. Consultations, to take place between now and the end of July, will look at the future size of the military, the kinds of missions it will undertake and the type of equipment it will have. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trudeau says Ottawa will be partners with cities on infrastructure

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says his government is committed to working with municipalities and provinces when it comes to infrastructure. Trudeau says it is up to towns and provinces to determine priorities. He adds the government has put forward its investments in two phases, with the first focusing on concerns such as maintenance and upgrades. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trump's lead now damaged

U.S. ELECTION

Wisconsin dealt blow to front-runner's campaign

Republican Donald Trump emerged from the Wisconsin primaries as a damaged front-runner following a crushing primary loss to rival Ted Cruz, deepening questions about the billionaire businessman's presidential qualifications and pushing the Republican Party toward a rare contested convention nomination fight.

Democrat Bernie Sanders also scored a sweeping victory Tuesday giving him fresh incentive to keep challenging Hillary Clinton. But Sanders still lags behind Clinton in the all-important delegate count.

Both parties now turn their sights toward New York, which offers a massive delegate prize in its April 19 contests. It marks a homecoming of sorts for several candidates, with Trump, Clinton and Sanders all boasting roots in the state.

In the Republican primary

system, candidates vie in each state to win delegates, who then vote for the nominee at party conventions over the summer. If no candidate wins an outright majority in the first vote of the convention, most delegates are free to change their allegiance, so candidates would have to compete to win their support.

Cruz has stepped forward as the candidate best positioned to block Trump in the Republican race, though it would likely take a convention battle to accomplish that goal.

A Texas senator with a complicated relationship with Republican leaders, Cruz cast his Wisconsin victory as a "turning point" in the race and urged the party to rally around his candidacy.

Even if Cruz's gains do force the Republican race into a contested convention in July, it is unclear whether he would emerge as the nominee, or whether the party would try to put forward someone else.

In the Republican race, Cruz was poised to collect most of Wisconsin's 42 Republican delegates.

In the Democratic race, Sanders still trails Clinton in the pledged delegate count and has

so far been unable to persuade superdelegates — the party officials who can back any candidate — to drop their allegiance to the former secretary of state and back his campaign.

At a raucous rally in Wyoming, Sanders cast his victory as a sign of mounting momentum for his campaign.

"With our victory tonight in Wisconsin, we have now won seven out of eight of the last caucuses and primaries," he declared. Sanders is favoured to win Wyoming's Democratic caucuses on Saturday, but it offers a small delegate prize.

Because Democrats award delegates proportionally, Sanders' victory in Wisconsin did not cut significantly into Clinton's lead — Sanders' win will net him at least 47 delegates and Clinton will gain at least 36.

That means Sanders must still win an unlikely 67 per cent of the remaining delegates and superdelegates in order to win the Democratic nomination. The state-by-state nominating contests are choosing delegates who will select the nominees at the parties' national conventions in July. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally Wednesday. JULIE JACOBSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EUROPE

EU looks for a new solution to ongoing migrant crisis

The European Union is looking into a fundamental reform of its migration policies, which have heaped pressure on some nations like Greece and Italy as over a million migrants and refugees arrived in Europe over the past year.

The EU Commission announced Wednesday it wants to amend the current principle where the first nation where a migrant arrives must process their asylum request. The policy is a central tenet of the 28-nation bloc's migration system, which has failed over the past year, EU Vice-President Frans Timmermans said.

Instead, the Commission proposes to activate a "distribution key" to spread asylum applicants around the EU. That means each EU nation would have to take a set number of asylum-seekers, according to a quota devised by the bloc. Still, a mandatory distribution of some asylum-seekers already in Europe has already caused serious frictions among many EU nations and the Commission's proposal Wednesday to amend one rule was unlikely to change that immediately.



A girl looks out from a train window where she lives with her family at the border crossing at the northern Greek border point of Idomeni on Wednesday. AMEL EMRIG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Commission said in a document to EU institutions that "significant structural weaknesses and shortcomings" in the current system were rife, which placed "a disproportionate responsibility" on some nations, while others, mostly eastern European members, sought to shield their countries from

having to carry much of the refugee burden.

The bloc's inefficient rules on how to handle migration along with its slow decision-making once the refugee crisis hit last year have been fodder for critics who portray the EU as an inefficient, outmoded institution.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CHANTAL HÉBERT ON THE NDP'S LEADERSHIP CRISIS



In politics, half of the battle often amounts to staying alive to fight another day and, by all indications, Mulcair would be happy to settle for what could be no more than a reprieve.

As the New Democrats prepare to pronounce on Thomas Mulcair's leadership, here is a prediction: Regardless of how the NDP leader scores on confidence vote Sunday, there will be little or no cause for celebration at the party's gathering in Edmonton.

One way or another, most of the delegates will leave the convention with the sense that the leadership issue remains unresolved, and their party is unmoored in the federal universe. There will be no definitive resolution to what ails the NDP this weekend.

Most New Democrats will not really be asking themselves whether they want Mulcair to lead them in another election on Sunday.

If that were really the question put to the convention, the answer would almost certainly be negative or, at least, not positive enough for Mulcair to stay on.

In the five months since the federal election, few backers have emerged for his contention that he will do better next time. The fact that the party will have another shot at showing him the door before the next campaign has surfaced as a more compelling argument for postponing a leadership change.

That's basically the case laid out by — among others — Unifor's president Jerry Dias. The leader of Canada's largest private sector union argues the decision as to who will lead the party in 2019 should be based on what Mulcair achieves between now and the next time his leadership comes up for review in two years.

If the NDP leader sur-

vives the weekend it will be, in no small part, on the basis of that logic.

If, on the other hand, his convention support falls short, the many New Democrats who are out to punish him for a disappointing campaign will feel vindicated, but for how long?

Predictably, some of the more aggressive promoters of a leadership change are MPs who lost their seats last fall. Some of them also happen to have been at the table when the campaign strategy — including the party's lacklustre platform — was agreed upon.

For all the talk of poor choices and uninspiring execution, there is no evidence that a more aggressively left-wing approach

would have delivered more seats last fall. Moreover, at this juncture, those who believe the party has lost its way in a self-defeating rush to the centre lack a unifying figure to make the case for their conclusions.

To sum up: The NDP does have a leadership crisis on its hands. The only question is whether enough delegates will agree to keep a lid on the issue this weekend. But the larger crisis is one of relevance and it is one that Mulcair's efforts over the past few months have only highlighted.

Much like his campaign strategy, the post-election path he has so far sketched out is based on the presumption that Justin Trudeau's government will so

underwhelm progressive voters that they will rediscover the virtues of a moderate NDP and — by the same token — the merits of a ready-for-prime-time leader in 2019.

In politics, half of the battle often amounts to staying alive to fight another day and, by all indications, Mulcair would be happy to settle for what could be no more than a reprieve. After all, beggars can't be choosers.

The New Democrats are meeting on the heels of a resounding defeat in Saskatchewan; at a time when the Manitoba NDP is facing extra-long odds in the quest for a fifth mandate, and with the federal party in the basement of voting intentions

Mulcair can reasonably hope the context will be more favourable to his leadership in a couple of years.

But there is another scenario that may make it worth their while for the New Democrats who absolutely cannot fathom going into the next election with the current leader to keep their powder dry and it's Trudeau's promise of electoral reform.

The advent of a more proportional voting system in time for the next election could go a long way to shift the balance between the NDP's social-democratic ideals and the quest for government in favour of the former. It could also render the rationale for sticking with a middle-of-the-road leader such as Mulcair redundant.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

Public changerooms: Our secret realm of body positivity

There's Kim Kardashian nude — all pouty and "empowered" on social media.

And then there's changeroom nude.

Where Kim is never short of vapid, Hallmark-inspired defences of nude selfies and her right to "be allowed to be sexy," in the changeroom at the downtown Jewish Community Centre, nudity is allowed to be saggy.

All day long, women file in and out, coming in clothed, exiting clothed. In between? They're naked. And not for self-promotion purposes.

A public changeroom is the anti-porn, the pro-reality. It's not that these average, assorted bodies can't be sensual, but they aren't naked for sex, or even sexiness. And in our culture, that is refreshing. No one is stopping to snap selfies tagged "#liberated." They're busy applying lotion.

Some women are tall and thin, or short and round, small breasts, large ones, slumped shoulders, knocked knees, loose skin, flat bottoms. Chatting in various states of dress and undress, calloused feet on tile floors, blow-drying their hair with a small towel over their bare shoulders to catch the wet drips.

They get dressed in helter-skelter fashion while passing by mirrors for makeup and hair primping.

The clientele skews older, which is enlightening for a

young(er) woman. This is your future, their bodies announce, and no amount of #goals will save you from #time.

This is an oasis from beauty norms, even household norms (how many adult children are openly nude with their parents?). I've even seen a naked woman in the hot tub sing to herself, something bluesy.

As a teenager, I hated the flagrant disrobing. I used the private stalls, cringing at even my own mother or sister's bare bodies slipping in and out of swimsuits. Mortified most of all by the shower.

I grew into public nudity as I grew out of self-consciousness. Perhaps changerooms, then, are good barometers for how comfortable you are in your skin. But they're also an opportunity to see how comfortable others are. Others who aren't a Kardashian. Others who probably don't prize looking hot quite so much, and who take interest in other measurements.

It's not syrupy self-love on display, only self-acceptance.

Undoubtedly, most women could criticize their bodies, if asked to. But who would bother? And what's the point? You've already dragged yourself here for some kind of fitness effort, and your limbs are working to whatever degree, and you're not thinking about the size of your tits while you strap on a bra. Blessedly, neither is anyone else.

THE MICROTREND: Femininity consultants



Post-Caitlyn Jenner, trans rights are at the forefront of the fight for equality. For the movement, there are political and economic battles to be fought and entrenched stereotypes to erase. But for individual trans people, there's an equally important struggle: figuring out how to present themselves to an often hostile world. Of course, where there's a need, there's a business opportunity. Hence the inchoate cottage industry of femininity consultants such as Monica Prata, a New York woman (cisgendered) whose company, Nouveau She, provides clients at various stages of transition with advice in makeup, comportment and wardrobe. "Our objective ... is not to create a caricature of femininity but rather to illuminate your beauty within," says Nouveau She's website. SOURCE: VICE; IMAGE: THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Candy's history isn't too sweet



Author Susan Benjamin owns several historic candy shops called **True Treats Candy**. CONTRIBUTED

NEW BOOK

Author looks at the origins of treats

Susan Benjamin owns stores in Maryland and West Virginia called **True Treats Candy** that specialize in historical candy products, including treats created by Aboriginal Peoples.

She has now written a history of candy, *Sweet as Sin: The Unwrapped Story of How Candy Became America's Favorite Pleasure*.

This conversation about her new book has been edited for length.

The idea of candy in North America really started with indigenous fruit — cranberries and blueberries, for example. It's surprising to find that peaches weren't natural to this continent and they

changed the way people ate.

When you go through the supermarket, there is very little that exists as it originally was. You have to remember the honeybee didn't get to North America until 1622. The peach came here in the 1500s with the explorers. They flourished, in part, because native Americans created orchards. Fruits that were indigenous to North America, the strawberry and the blueberry, were changed by the European-Americans trying to create a more salable commodity.

We sell, in our historic candy shop, fruit from the Ojibwa tribe, the highbush blueberry and cranberry. You can really taste the difference. Native Americans used all parts of the corn and one good example is corn syrup, and that was used long before the Euro-



When you talk about candy you have to address the lives of the African Americans. It is really dire and so horrendous. Susan Benjamin

peans came. The other corn product would be the corn cob. We sell corn-cob jelly in our shop. Native people would take various parts of the corn and use it as candy.

You write about the chefs who created candied treats for their employers, but your description of George Washington suggests he was a terrible boss, especially to his poor chef Hercules!

Washington was considered relatively good to his slaves. Most of the founding fathers had slaves, except for John Adams. Hercules is an amazing example because he defeated the system by escaping and staying escaped.

When George Washington lived in Philadelphia, which allowed slaves to become free after living in Pennsylvania for at least six months, he would often send his slaves back to Mount Vernon in Virginia, which was a state that had the largest number of slaves in the early United States. Hercules wanted to be his own man. Word got

around to George Washington that Hercules wanted to be free, so he sent him back to Virginia and had him do arduous work in the fields. He did that to break Hercules' spirit so Hercules wouldn't think of escaping. Hercules did escape, but Washington did everything in his power to get him back. He posted notices; he

offered Hercules the opportunity to come back as a free man.

I believe the main reason for slavery was cane sugar. Huge numbers of workers were needed to produce the cane. So when you talk about candy you

have to address the lives of the African Americans. It is really so dire and so horrendous, and I started seeing them as survivors rather than victims. They survived these unbearable circumstances. It made me see my nation in a different way, and that many of these people were unsung inventors in the world of sugar and they need to be honoured and celebrated and admired.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



INTERVIEW

Tina Fey on her edible book and other works she loves

Even for someone as loved as Tina Fey, a reported \$6 million advance seemed like a lot of money for a book of essays.

But five years after its publication, *Bossypants* has sold 3.75 million copies, according to Little, Brown and Co.

And it confirmed a market for smart, funny nonfiction such as Amy Poehler's *Yes Please* and

Mindy Kaling's *Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?*

In an email interview Tuesday, Fey discussed *Bossypants* and some books she has enjoyed recently. She also had a few words for author-journalist Gay Talese, who said last weekend that he could think of no women journalists who inspired him when he was young.

When the book was first published, what were your expectations?

My goal was just to avoid humiliation. After years of writing character-based comedy in a group process with other writers, a book "about me written by me alone" made me feel panicky and vulnerable. I kept telling my hus-

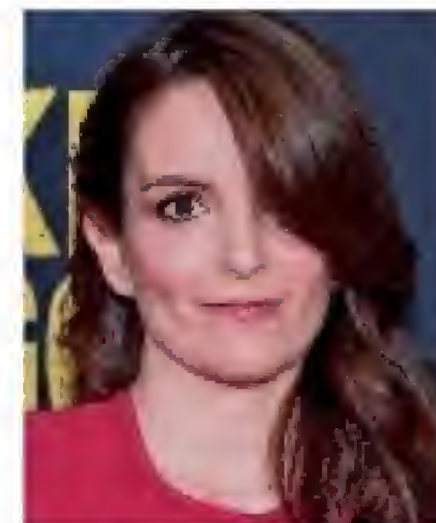
band, "This is going to ruin me."

Why do you think it has done so well, beyond, of course, your fame and the quality of the writing?

It's also edible. Well, I guess all books are if you're hungry enough.

Any books you'd recommend that you've read lately?

I enjoyed Diane Von Furstenberg's autobiography. I loved *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. I'm currently reading *Dinosaurs in the Attic* — non-fiction about the American Museum of Natural History. Nothing by Gay Talese has moved me. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



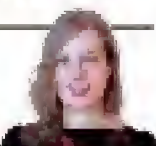
Tina Fey GETTY IMAGES

Telling the tale of a gay, Yiddish-speaking parrot

YIDDISH FOR PIRATES

Gary Barwin mixes identity and adventure in new book

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



Gary Barwin was working on the manuscript for his novel *Yiddish for Pirates* one day when his daughter came home from school, and caught him having a chuckle. "Dad, you're laughing at your own jokes again."

It's obvious that the Hamilton, Ont., author enjoyed writing this humorous, pun-laden twist on the classic adventure story, which at its heart deals with the very serious issues of religious persecution and identity — as told by Aaron, a 500-year-old, immortal, gay, Yiddish-speaking parrot.

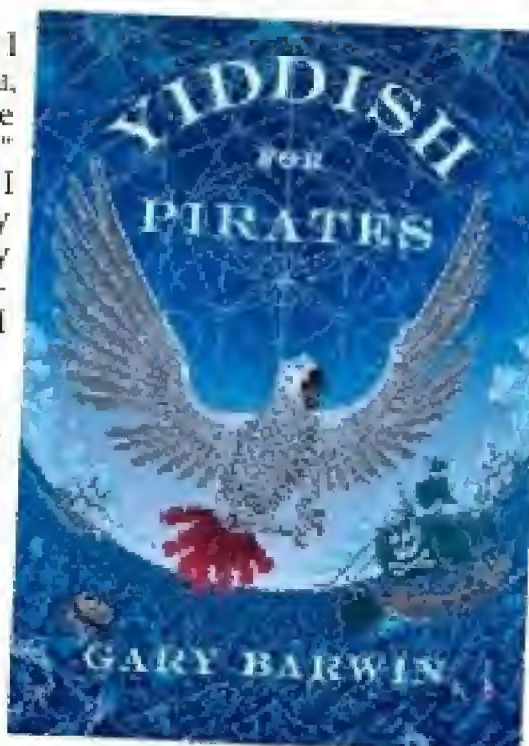
"I was thinking this is a pirate story; who is the perfect narra-

tor, who is there all the time? I was thinking of a GoPro camera, he's sitting on the shoulders the whole time and he observes," says Barwin. "The other thing I love about parrots is that they are like humans, they can only communicate with the language that they've learned. I feel like that's what I do."

Set in the early 1490s, *Yiddish for Pirates* tells the story of Moishe, a young boy who joins a ship crew, helps a group of hidden Jews during the Spanish Inquisition to smuggle out forbidden books, falls in love and travels to the New World with Christopher Columbus before becoming a revenge-seeking pirate. Despite Barwin's long résumé as a poet and performer, this is his first novel for adults, released under Random House Canada's prestigious New Face of Fiction program.

Writing *Yiddish for Pirates* gave Barwin the opportunity to engage deeper with his own religion.

"There's something about be-



ing Jewish and Jewish identity and its relationship to language and story that's really captivating to me," he says.

"I had to constantly be open to where the story would take me next. I never believed this when other writers said this before, but it really felt like the characters and the language

really took me — I just followed along."

While the book deals with historical tragedies, many of which have jarring similarities to today's world, it does so through dark, ironic humour, a trait he also finds empowering in Judaism. Barwin resisted using puns, but as he progressed, his characters demanded more slang and slapstick (many of which involve various bodily functions).

"Pirates were these word-invention machines. These insults and swashbuckling threats are such a juicy joy to speak," he says.

"That's a component of that in Yiddish as well. People who speak Yiddish love to revel in the Yiddishisms and clever charismatic ways of saying things. It's so fun to riff off of those."

Writing the book also brought back childhood memories of voraciously reading adventure stories and watching pirate movies.

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

RELAUNCH

Clever team behind the Black Panther

Mike Donachie
Metro | Canada

BLACK PANTHER #1

BY: Ta-Nehisi Coates, Brian Stelfreeze and Laura Martin
PUBLISHER: Marvel Comics

Marvel have done a lot of cool things lately, but perhaps the coolest is the relaunch of *Black Panther* and the choice of its creative team.

With issue one appearing just ahead of the character's much-anticipated appearance in the movie *Captain America: Civil War*, this new book is a lot deeper than the movie is expected to be.

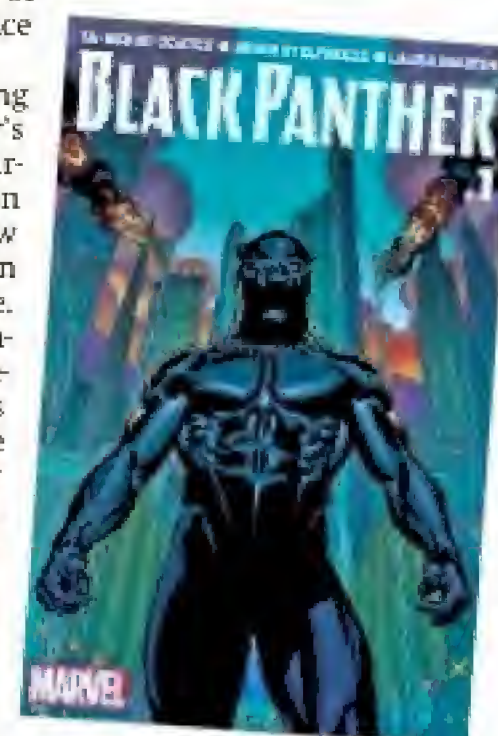
It's been written by Ta-Nehisi Coates, an extremely clever man who writes about politics and culture for *The Atlantic* and last year won a National Book Award for *Between The World and Me*.

With beautiful art by Brian Stelfreeze, this book is itself extremely clever. The *Black Panther* is, once again, T'Challa, king of

mineral rich, high-tech African nation Wakanda.

But in this book Coates asks a good question: what kind of king can you be when you're running around being a superhero with the Avengers? And why would his people accept an absolute monarchy?

It's an entertaining book that's worth picking up for its intelligent storytelling.



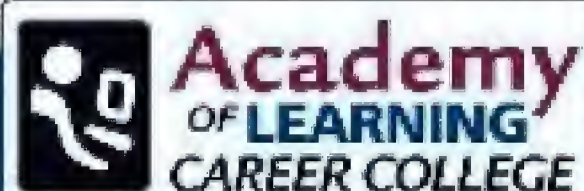
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Artist Robert Mapplethorpe, right, who died in 1989, shocked sensibilities with his images of gay sexuality. CONTRIBUTED



JOHANNA SCHNELLER WHAT I'M WATCHING

The photographer who told Americans 'Made you look!'

THE SHOW: Mapplethorpe: Look at the Pictures (HBO)
THE MOMENT: The self-portraits

Halfway through this documentary, the late artist Robert Mapplethorpe — who was both renowned and reviled for photographing images of gay sexuality — tells a journalist the story behind his most controversial self-portrait.

After photographing a graphic sex act, Mapplethorpe recalls, one of its subjects challenged

him: "You wouldn't want to be considered somebody who exploits people and isn't able to exploit himself."

So Mapplethorpe put on a vest, chaps, and boots, and (bear with me here) inserted a bullwhip into his anus. He posed with his back to the camera — then turned his head around and levelled his gaze right at us, the viewers.

"Most people would say that's a horrible image of yourself," the journalist remarks.

"No," Mapplethorpe replies. "That's a good one."

The title of this doc is a challenge, and it keeps challenging us throughout — both to see what Mapplethorpe saw, and to understand why he needed us to. Many of the images are squirm-inducing, and the interviewees acknowledge that.

But as Mapplethorpe insists, "Sexuality like I portray it is very much (happening) today. It will take a few years before people realize that," and, "What happens here is indicative of America, finally."

In other words, if many people

are doing something, it can't be inherently wrong. Empathy requires understanding, and the first step toward understanding something is to look at it, unblinkingly.

In his final self-portrait, Mapplethorpe holds a cane topped with a silver skull. He's dying of AIDS, and he faces that, also without blinking.

Johanna Schneller is a media connoisseur who zeroes in on pop-culture moments. She appears Monday through Thursday.

NEW BOOK

Rescue dog the Toast of Instagram

There was too much sun, swimming, eating and zooming about in Jaguars and private helicopters, but Instagram diva Toast the dog took the Hampton last summer and lived to write about it.

The pup with the floppy tongue and loyal social media following is out with her first book, a collection of swanky, beachy photos, ToastHampton: How to Summer in Style.

While, yes, Toast would rather be carried than walk on her own four paws, and yes, she prefers bottled water over tap, the ruby Cavalier King Charles spaniel with the substantial wardrobe is also a visible advocate for a good cause: ending inhumane puppy mills and encouraging humans to adopt older pets through rescue organizations.

Toast was rescued from a North Carolina mill in 2011 at age 5 or 6. She was a breeding mom who lost all her teeth to decay, allowing her tongue to chronically escape her mouth — her signature trait on Instagram. Her human mom and "dogager," Katie Sturino, put Toast's first photo up on Instagram about two years ago and away she went under the handle @toastmeetsworld.

While Toast is no Kim Kardashian in the social media numbers game, she has amassed about 350,000 followers on Instagram. Now, she models for fashion and photo shoots, including a stint as the fuzzy face of Karen Walker's eyewear collection for spring 2015.

When Toast found her forever family with Sturino, and dad and fellow Instagrammer



Toast, a Cavalier King Charles spaniel, is using her celebrity power to end inhumane puppy mills. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Josh "The Fat Jew" Ostrovsky, she was in bad shape. Her teeth were infected and her coat was a ratty mess, Sturino said, but "she was smiling. She charmed us from day one."

In addition to the book, out May 24 from Harper Design,

Toast and her mom will lend their testimony to a proposal in New Jersey to end pet store sales of dogs and cats from puppy mills. A portion of proceeds from the book will go to Friends of Finn, Sturino said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MUSIC

Health issues delay Janet Jackson tour

Janet Jackson is delaying her "Unbreakable" tour, saying Wednesday that she and her husband are planning their family and that she is under doctor's orders to rest.

The 49-year-old singer announced in a video on her Twitter account Wednesday morning that there has been a "sudden change" to the second leg of her tour, which started in August.

She didn't say she was pregnant with her first child, only that she needed to rest up.

Jackson married Wissam Al Mana in 2012. In the video clip, Jackson thanked her fans for their love and loyalty. She went on to thank her dancers, her band and her crew.

"Once again, thank you to all the fans for your love, your

undying love; your loyalty that means so much to me," Jackson said.

"It's been a long journey and you guys have been there each and every step of the way and I really do appreciate that ... I will see you soon."

On Dec. 24, Jackson announced that she was postponing her tour until the spring to have an unspecified surgical procedure. She had been next scheduled to perform in early January in Denver.

She said no further details on her medical condition would be disclosed. Two weeks later, Jackson announced rescheduled tour dates after she took some time to recover from the surgical procedure. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Janet Jackson's comment that she's planning her family has fuelled speculation about a possible pregnancy. AFR/Getty Images

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MEET THE CONDO

Cross to the south side

Project overview

With show suites that are nominated for CHBA Awards of Excellence, Crossroads of Rutherford offers premium quality apartment-style condo living for young families, downsizers and everyone in between in desirable south Edmonton.

Housing amenities

New condos from Streetside Developments focus on larger room sizes, airy open spaces and clever use of storage, while avoiding hallways. New condo buyers get a personalized design consultation to choose premium finishes inside, while outside features include heated underground parking and energy-efficient vinyl windows.

In the neighbourhood

Many condo units in the two, four-storey buildings of Crossroads of Rutherford overlook the large, next-door park with playground, walking trails and forested land. New schools are slated to open in nearby Blackmud Creek, Allard and Chappelle in 2016 and 2017.

Location and transit

Rutherford Heights boasts great access to amenities at Ellerslie Road, Currents of Windermere and South Edmonton Common. There's easy access to downtown and post-secondary education via the Anthony Henday, while public transit is minutes away on 127 Street SW via James Mowatt Trail SW.

LUCY HAINES/FOR METRO

CROSSROADS OF RUTHERFORD



CONTRIBUTED

+ NEED TO KNOW

What: Crossroads of Rutherford
Builder: Streetside Developments
Designer: Streetside Developments
Location: Rutherford Heights in South Edmonton
Building: Four-storey, apartment-style condo units
Sizes: 660 sq. ft.-1,260 sq. ft.
Pricing: Suites in Bldg 2 start at \$187,950 incl. GST

Model: 15 floor plans, from one bed/one bath to two bed/two bath plus den
Status: Building 1 complete, quick possession for remaining suites. Building 2 under construction with possession slated for fall 2016.
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Website: streetsidedevelopments.com

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3 EASY WAYS TO SPRUCE UP FOR SPRING

There may still be a chill in the air but these quick and affordable decorating ideas will warm you up to the joy of spring. Freshen up your home with these three easy, inexpensive tips. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



1 Simple flowers

Who can resist the buckets of blooms outside floral shops in the spring? Buy a bunch or two and fill your house with fresh bouquets. After all, nothing says spring like flowers.

Tips to help keep flowers looking fresh:

- Remove foliage from the stem that will sit below the water line.
- Trim stems under water so they absorb moisture.
- Add a teaspoon of sugar to water.



2 Organize your entryway

Pack away the winter clutter in your entry to make space for spring. An **entry table** provides a spot to set down mail but is small enough in size to limit clutter. A vase with simple green foliage and colourful art welcomes guests. A pretty dish provides a spot for keys.



3 Show off a collection

Vintage glassware such as **old soda bottles, demijohns and jars** looks great grouped together on a shelf or tabletop. They add a little sparkle to your space and reflect light. Spring is a great time to scour antique markets and yard sales for those vintage treasures.



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Rohit
COMMUNITIES



Colin Gillies and his wife, Sophia Jong, have added both a basement apartment and a third floor Airbnb suite to their Toronto home over the years to help cover their mortgage and other home-ownership expenses. CONTRIBUTED

Home buying the innovative way

REAL ESTATE

Ways to offset some of the costs of home ownership

Camilla Cornell

Colin Gillies has always regarded his house in a neighbourhood of downtown Toronto as an asset that will pay for itself.

"When we moved in, our kids were nine and 13, and we needed more space," he said. But the house he and his wife bought had more room than they needed, so they added a basement apartment. That has helped cover the cost of their mortgage for the past 30 years.

When Gillies developed a rheumatic disorder that required him to quit work in 2011, he and his wife added a small kitchen to the spacious third story of their home and hung out their shingle on Airbnb. The extra \$125 a night they earn has helped ensure they don't feel the pinch as much from having their income basically cut in half.

"Last year, we brought in about \$27,000," said Gillies.

The bonus? "We've really enjoyed having conversations and spending time with the people," he said. "My health was such that we couldn't travel. This way, the world comes to

our doorstep."

As Gillies can attest, getting — and keeping — a foothold on the property ladder sometimes requires a little inventiveness.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

Team up with a friend or relative

A 2014 survey by TD Bank found a shift towards non-traditional ways of purchasing property. About four in 10 Canadians said they thought buying a property with friends or family members would be a great way to get started.

The scenarios vary, according to Collette Skelly, a real estate agent with Real Estate Homeward. She has dealt with several pairs of friends looking for three-bedroom houses.

"They each take a room and they usually plan to rent the third bedroom to another friend," she said. In other cases, families seek a separate space in the house for an aging relative who is contributing cash to help them make the purchase.

But such agreements shouldn't be entered into lightly, says Pat Giles, associate vice-president, real estate secured lending at for TD-Canada Trust. Before embarking on such a venture, he advises, agree on a budget and down payment, as well as the key characteristics you want in a property, and what you're willing to compromise on.

In addition, most experts agree it's wise to write up a

co-ownership agreement that stipulates who pays for what, and what happens if either party can no longer carry the mortgage, or one person wants out.

Launch an Airbnb

According to Aaron Zifkin, Airbnb's country manager for Canada, 82 per cent of the company's hosts around the world "share only the home in which they live, and 47 per cent say the income has helped them stay in their homes."

The downside, said Gillies: "I don't know if I would rely on Airbnb to top up a mortgage. Unlike having a tenant — nothing is guaranteed." But if you simply want to be less house poor than you otherwise would be, it's a great alternative, he said. And it's flexible. "If we have friends coming from out of town or we just want to take a break, we just update the calendar."

Take on a tenant

According to rentboard.ca, the average amount landlords get for a rental basement apartment in Toronto is \$867 per month.

"You may have to invest a bit more upfront for the house and the renovations," said Susan Asquith, a real estate agent with Bosley Real Estate, Ltd. "But in the long term, it should pay off."

When seeking a house with a rental space likely to attract good tenants, consider the ceiling height and windows. Said

Asquith: "No one wants to live in the dark." If there's already a separate entrance, you'll save the \$12,000-plus it would cost to dig one. And accessibility to shops, restaurants and public transit are selling points for potential tenants.

Host a student

Rates to house a foreign student in your home vary between about \$500 and \$800 a month, depending on the quality of the room, and whether you feed your student as well.

It's not chump change, said Skelly. And it can help new homeowners manage the cost of their mortgage. But hosts should be aware there's work involved.

You're required to help students figure out how to get around the city and troubleshoot for them when necessary. And you must be tolerant of different habits and customs.

Want to learn more? Check out canadianhomestayagency.com and homes-abroad-international.com, to name a couple.

Opt for a 'transitional' neighbourhood

Investing in an up-and-coming area can allow you to get into the market and could well pay off big in the long run.

"Leslieville (in Toronto) was once considered a transitional neighbourhood," said Skelly. "And the Junction (in Toronto) used to be a disaster and all of a sudden it's the coolest place in town."

Tech tools to help find new digs

Marc Saltzman

If you're like most Canadians looking to buy a home, you might circle a house for sale advertised in a newspaper, arrange to have an agent send listings in your desired area, or perhaps you'll browse properties online.

You might also consider adding some more advanced tech tools to your arsenal.

"Buyers are increasingly savvy, and they're discovering new and exciting ways to research a property and its community before seeing it in person," said Lahav Reznik, broker and managing partner of Forest Hill Real Estate Inc. Brokerage in the GTA.

"In conjunction with using a professional, these tools can provide a clearer overall picture of the property and its neighbourhood to help Canadians find their dream home."

In fact, many of these emerging technologies are Canadian-made.

Do the drone

Richard Foltys, founder of Richard Emmanuel Studios, says drone photography is becoming "extremely" popular among those who want a bird's eye view of a prospective property.

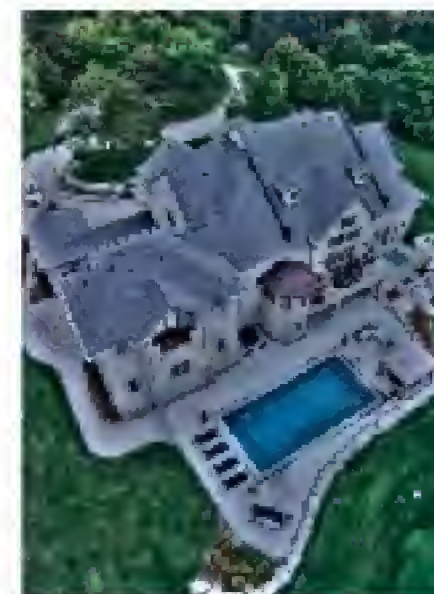
"We're getting more requests than ever from real estate agents and private sellers to shoot above and around larger properties," said Foltys.

"Homebuyers can get a great perspective of the property layout, an idea of how close they are to parks, walking distance to main streets, and the proximity of their neighbours," explained Foltys.

But these still images and videos need to be shot legally and responsibly, cautioned Foltys. Commercial drone photographers need to apply for a permit, but both drone photographers and hobbyists need to respect people's privacy and also not fly over anyone for safety reasons.

Foltys also uses a drone inside of a home as a virtual walkthrough.

"We can also provide an experience of what it's like walking through the house by taking the propellers off a drone and using the camera, with image stabilization, to shoot a smooth walk around inside," he said.



Richard Emmanuel Studios drone photography.

RICHARD FOLTYS

Virtual tours

Why settle for flat 2D images of a home you're interested in when you can take a virtual tour on a smartphone, tablet, laptop or desktop?

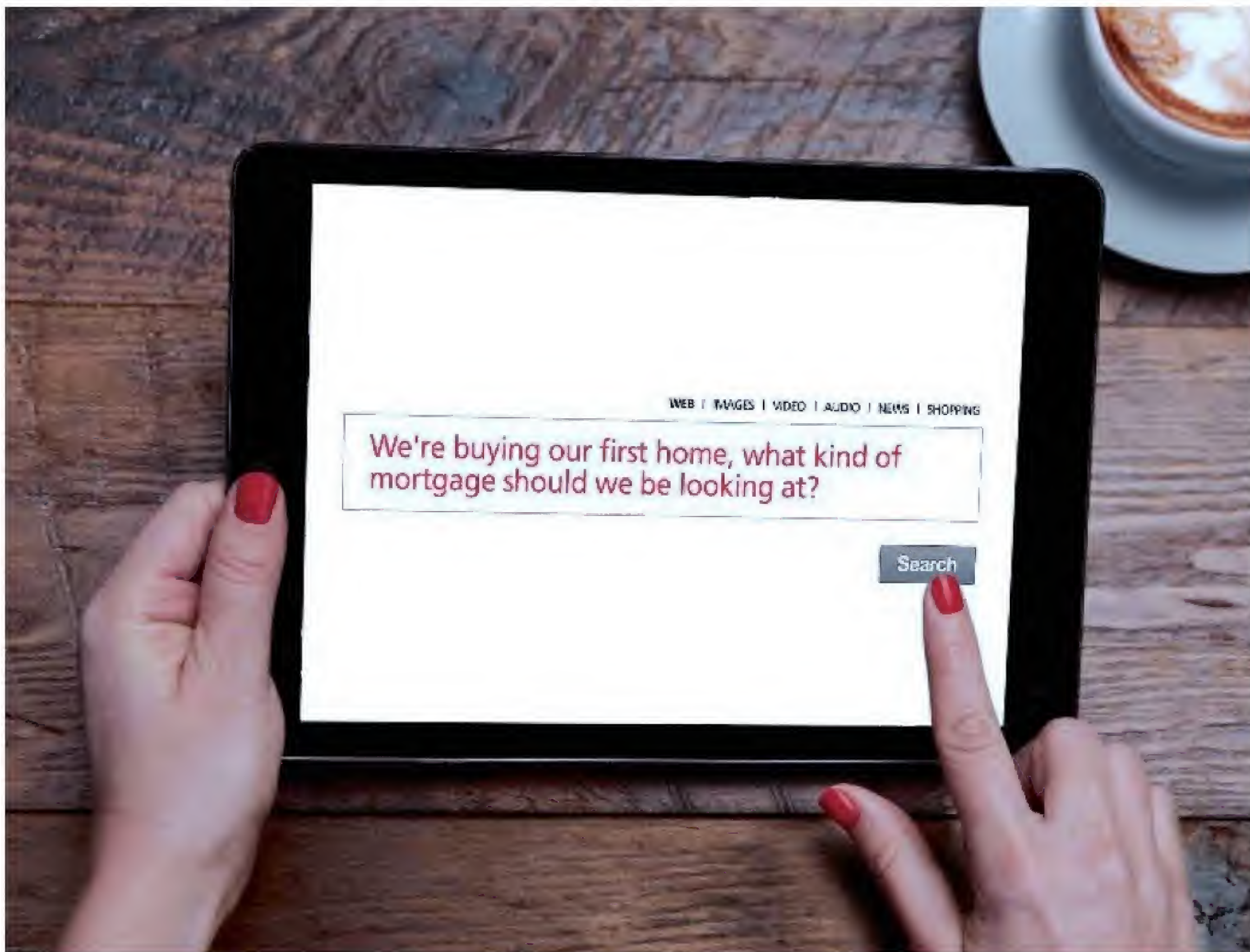
That's the idea behind VR Listing, Inc., a Toronto-based service that delivers virtual tours of homes for potential buyers. The company also operates in New York and Barbados, says Aaron Tench, the company's 25-year-old chief executive officer.

"With VR Listing, agents can show their clients 10 houses in 10 minutes — with life-like realism and feel — without needing to leave their own home, saving both time and money," explained Tench. "We aim to change the way real estate is marketed globally and allow people to view properties from other countries."

A serial entrepreneur with a history in the tech start-up space, Tench says he and his partner, Jon James Atyeo, were monitoring the Canadian real estate sector and discovered the solutions for marketing properties were simply outdated.

The process begins with a multi-point scan of the interior of the property. A sophisticated scanning camera utilizes both high-definition optics and calibrated lasers to digitally map out the interior of a space. Several image points are collected, and this information is digitally assembled to create a 3D rendering of the space.

Using the information, a visual floor plan is created, along with a second schematic floor plan (with exact measurements of room sizes).



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Eager buyers who waive a home inspection to close a deal do so at their peril

Brent Jolly

From leaky roofs and wet basements to plumbing problems and faulty foundations, Alan Carson has seen the entire spectrum of defects and damage that can haunt a home during his nearly 40 years in the home inspection business.

"I've never seen a perfect house," said Carson, president of Carson Dunlop, a home inspection consulting firm he co-founded in 1978. "Every good home inspection looks at several hundred components, so it's not just a quick cosmetic review."

Key areas that require reviewing in every inspection, Carson says, include the home's structure, the furnace and air conditioning, the plumbing, roofing, insulation and ventilation. And that's just the start.

"Home inspections help consumers understand what they're getting into and how to help them protect their investment," said Carson.

But with bidding wars becoming even more commonplace in some Canadian markets, more and more new homebuyers are choosing to forego a home inspection because it offers a chance to get a leg up on landing what they believe to be their perfect property.

Although it's one way to help quickly close a deal, it's a strategy bound to backfire over the long-term, says Canadian contractor Mike Holmes.

"It's by far the biggest mistake 'boom buyers' can make," said Holmes. "Buying by illusion, rather than education, means consumers are likely to walk into a world of pain."

About a year and a half ago, Holmes and his crew were hired by a young couple, who had recently purchased a home near High Park in Toronto. With multiple offers on the table for the property, the buyers decided to waive the home inspection condition in their offer to help put them over the top.

The couple got the property. What they also got, after Holmes' crew did its own inspection, was a list that contained about \$150,000 worth of problems from the ground floor on up.

It's just one example of a cautionary tale that many homebuyers are learning the hard way, Holmes says.

Canadian contractor Mike Holmes CONTRIBUTED



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One of the best tips Holmes offers consumers preparing to put themselves in the crosshairs of a real-estate bidding war is for them to do their homework — earlier, rather than later.

To start, he says consumers should ask home inspectors lots of questions before hiring them. Clients should know how long an inspector has been performing home inspections and what they were doing professionally before inspecting homes.

The best home inspectors, Holmes says, often have previous experience in construction, contracting or the trades. It's an important fact to

consider because Ontario does not yet have a formal licensing program in place for home inspectors.

Mark Weisleder, a real estate lawyer, recommends consumers take the time to be present when they get a home inspection done. It's a good idea, he says, because they can ask their inspector to explain potential problems to them on site, in language they can understand.

Another safeguard Weisleder recommends for homebuyers is to get to know as much about a home and its neighbourhood before making any offers.

BEST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

Renovate strategically

When it comes time to renovate a home, be smart about which fixer-upper projects you undertake.

Some updates will add extra value to a property come listing day, but others might fail to offer a return on investment.

"When you're doing renovations, a lot of the time they're for yourself and your own enjoyment, but that doesn't necessarily translate into something that's good for resale," said Brendan Powell, a realtor with the Brel Team.

"Yes bathrooms and kitchens are always where you get the biggest bang for your buck, but you don't always get more than you spend. Ask yourself, is it just an ugly kitchen or is it a complete disaster? You have to look at the house as a totality. If you're going to put in a brand new kitchen but the rest of the house looks like a disaster, you can't just do the kitchen. It's a slippery slope. Sometimes it's best to leave ugly things be. There's no point doing a lipstick makeover."

Homeowner Sharon Giraud, 49, recently began prepping her property for resale, to be listed this month. Giraud and her husband will be experiencing what it's like to live in other parts of the world, beginning with Malaysia.

"Our home-reno plans started a couple of years ago because we knew our exit date from Canada," she said. "We did things with that in mind."

The couple hopes to fetch top dollar for the house they've lived in for 16 years to help fund the next chapter of their lives as semi-retired, global-trotting renters.

The touch-ups are minor, with the goal of accenting a unique property tailored to professionals instead of families, as it features home offices, low-maintenance gardens, modern bathroom fixtures, and plenty of space for entertaining friends, including a pool.

Small improvements can work wonders toward making a good first impression, says professional stager and interior decorator Red Barrinuevo, of Redesign4more.

"Fix the scratches and leaky faucets, the cracked tiles and the grout issues," Barrinuevo advised.

"Those things make a big difference. You don't want to be handing your to-do list to the new owners. They can always go somewhere else with nothing to do."

Sometimes the biggest payoffs are fast and cheap.

"Painting is almost always worth it," said Powell. "Paint is cheap, easy and quick..."

For yards in need of a makeover, bring in inexpensive mulch for a clean look.

"Make it as easy as possible for people to see what the space is," said Powell.

"De-clutter so that the rooms look big and they can see past the stuff." **TANYA ENBERG**



Creating additional usable living space can help home sellers harness top dollar. iStock

Showcase new life in your home

REVAMPED HOME

Stage your space to turn it into someone's dream home

Tanya Enberg

Carefully curated furnishings, lovely accent pillows, masterful lighting and clever pops of colour can shift a tired-looking space into a dream home for potential buyers while bringing in top dollar for sellers.

Calling in home stagers and their styling tricks to work their magic before listing is becoming the norm — a trend blooming, in part, from the around-the-clock rotation of reality-style home reno shows, each one culminating with the big reveal of a completely revamped, drool-worthy property.

"In the past few years staging has taken off like wildfire," said luxury stager Anne Bourne of StagingWorks.

"We've gotten \$80,000 over list price and even more importantly, they're selling in a day. It's hard to know if it's the staging or the market, but I have to think the staging definitely has an impact."

Gone are the days when simply scrubbing the interior, cutting the lawn, and plopping a few pretty plants on the porch will do before pitching the 'for sale' sign.

For today's buyer, the 'appeal' factor goes far beyond the curb.

Enter the home stager to amp up the photo-ready treatment.

The goal of staging is to give buyers the chance to experience a space in a way that allows them

to imagine living there.

It is about maximizing small rooms, reworking awkward spaces, choosing great art, lighting, accessories and furniture size strategically. While that may sound easy enough, in reality it can take an expert eye. Essentially, the images homeowners ogle in magazines often don't carry over into their own living quarters, say the pros.

Home stager and interior decorator Red Barrinuevo can make any space, from a 600-square-foot downtown condo to 6,000 square-foot house, pop. "Every square foot counts," Barrinuevo said.

"Everything needs to showcase as much space as it can for homebuyers. They need to know exactly what they're going to do with the space and how they are going to do the layout with their furniture. When you walk into a house that's not staged and not de-cluttered, it's a challenge for most buyers. They think, 'How will my couch fit here?'"

Common rules for staging include removing TVs and replacing them with art and storing all personal items and mementos.

"No. 1, remove all of the little bits of clutter that we all have," advised Bourne.

"The stacks of paper, the tiny paper weights beside the lamp, any little knickknack things people tend to collect all should be gone. I'd rather see nothing on end tables than a lot of little things. Just stick one vase on your coffee table or three great coffee table books. Keep it simple. The whole idea is to let people envision themselves in the house. People want to see the space, where they're going to cook or bake or whatever it is they do, but nobody wants to know what shampoo you're using."



For today's buyer, the 'appeal' factor goes far beyond the curb. WEST BLUE MEDIA



Give buyers the chance to imagine living there, says luxury stager Anne Bourne. JONATHAN NICHOLLS

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- A consultation of a condo of less than 1,000-square-feet will cost about \$200-\$300 and take up to three hours.
- The stager will advise on furniture placement and art, lighting and best accessories to showcase.
- Staging a 700-square-foot condo typically costs be-

- tween \$2,500 and \$3000.
- A consultation of a mid-sized home will cost about \$300-\$350.
- Staging an occupied 3,000-square-foot home is about \$2000-\$2,500 on average.
- Staging a vacant property can run \$4,500 and up.

*Ongoing rate for the balance of the 4-year mortgage term is 2.77% as of March 14, 2016. For current mortgage rates, please visit cibc.com/mortgagerates. APR of 2.64% is calculated based on an introductory rate of 1.99% for 9 months on a \$275,000 mortgage, an ongoing rate of 2.77% and a 25-year amortization, assuming a property valuation fee of \$250. Mortgage application must be made by June 30, 2016; mortgage must fund within 120 days of application date. Available only on mortgages of \$10,000 or more, subject to credit approval. Other conditions apply; ask for details. CIBC may change or cancel this offer at any time without notice. CIBC Cube Design & "Banking that fits your life." are trademarks of CIBC. All other trademarks are owned by CIBC.

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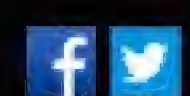
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New build perks push boundaries

AMENITIES

Homebuyers demand innovation

Jaclyn Tersigni

Technology is constantly pushing the boundaries of what's possible, and consumers expect the best. In response, developers are pulling out all the stops to win prospective homebuyers. Houses and condos are more innovative than ever, incorporating new technologies, amenities and upgrades for easier, "greener" and more connected lifestyles.

Going green

Imagine a home that creates more energy than it uses — and saves you hundreds of dollars on your utility bill. Minto Group Inc. has built that green dream, called a Net Zero Energy Ready home, in its Arcadia development in Kanata, Ont. Billed as one of the country's most energy efficient homes, the "Killarney" is a 2,406-square-foot, three-bedroom house that blends technology

with innovative design and materials to reduce home energy consumption by a whopping 65 per cent.

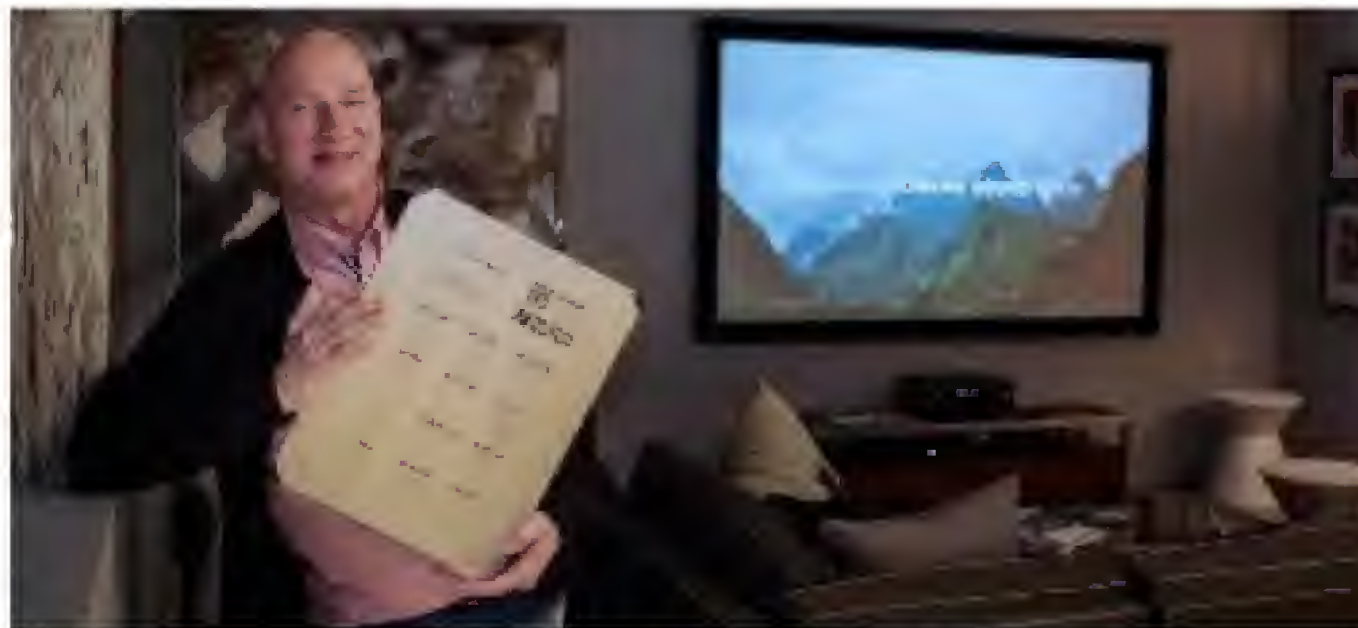
Its heating system is twice as efficient as a natural gas furnace, advanced insulation and triple pane windows help the house retain warmth. Its energy monitoring system helps the homeowner monitor their energy use.

The most impressive part of the home is its roof, which can accommodate solar panels to produce as much energy as the home is expected to consume in a 12-month period.

The home is open for public viewing while Minto constructs four townhomes with similar energy targets in the Arcadia community, to be sold upon completion. Arcadia is being used as a test site for future Net Zero Energy developments in other communities. The Killarney model starts at \$452,900.

Fancy amenities

Developers of new condominiums are getting creative when it comes to amenities. A new 38-storey residential building by Capital Developments and Freed Developments at 150 Redpath Ave. in Toronto will boast a



Keith Vanderkley designed a completely invisible surround sound system. CONTRIBUTED

24-hour in-house diner to serve both residents and passersby. Residents can order room service, as well as have food brought up the building's a rooftop pool and deck.

With 25,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor amenities, Lighthouse Tower by Daniels Corporation — a 45-storey condo to be built at Queens Quay East and Lower Jarvis Street, overlooking Toronto's waterfront — will have the typical fitness facilities and party spaces, but also promises some fairly unique bonuses.

Sophisticated home cooks and kitchen beginners alike can take advantage of the Kitchen Library, a space stocked with shared appliances for use, as well as cooking seminars and training. The Jam Studio will have gear and space for musicians of all levels to practise and play, while the Arts and Crafts Studio will provide opportunities for artists to create, learn and enjoy exhibits, programmed by Artscape.

Big sound

FutureDreamHome, an annual

feature at the National Home Show, showcases the best of design, architecture and innovative technologies in a model home for attendees to be inspired by. This year's installation — designed and constructed by Michael Upshall of Probuilt Design and Build company and Darren Sanger-Smith of residential design firm Structured Creations — featured North America's first ever installation of a completely invisible, state-of-the-art surround sound system.

In the home's recreational

+ TRIPLE BUILT

Great Gulf Homes builds its new residential properties three times using its H+ME Technology. First, the home is built in virtual 3D. Once all components are tested and the 3D rendering is approved, each panel, wall and even the roof is precision-engineered at a 200,000 square foot manufacturing facility. The home is then assembled on-site, often in as little as two days' time. greatgulf.com

room, audio designer Keith Vanderkley used a series of speakers from Dolby, Amina Technologies and Triad Speakers to create rich sound that seems to emanate from all angles. The speakers are entirely invisible, hidden from sight behind the screen and in the ceilings. Listeners feel as though they are in the centre of the sound; background conversations in a movie scene sound as though they're happening behind you and a rain shower sounds as though it's coming from above.

Selena's FEATURED LISTINGS



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FIRST TIME HOME BUYERS

To rent or to buy: what's best for your situation

Many first time home buyers ask Selena Cheung, a licensed Realtor in Alberta, if it's better to rent or buy. Her reply? "It depends."

In major Canadian cities such as Edmonton, real estate doubles the value every 25 years, on average. "However, by renting, you just make your landlord rich, and you help them payoff his/her mortgage every year. On top of that, you have no control over rental increases," Cheung says.

Owning your home builds equity and wealth in the long run. You never have to worry about a rent increase, landlord visits or eviction, Cheung adds.

"Buying a home requires lot of planning, because after all, it is one of the biggest investments for most people," Cheung says. "Discuss with a good realtor what can help you define what's important, as your situation might change in few years." Where do you like to live? What are five 'must haves' such as close to work, school, three bedrooms, garage, etc, and five 'must not haves' such as back on to a highway, small yard etc. "Once you have clear vision of your new home, it is much easier for your realtor to narrow your search," Cheung



ISTOCK

says. And she knows what she's talking about. Cheung has been top five per cent real estate agent since 2009 and she helped hundreds home buyers and sellers in Edmonton and surrounding areas. She is currently licensed with Realty Executives Progressive.

"Don't be surprised if you have to view several dozen homes in order to find your dream home." For more information, visit edmonton-chinese.ca.



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Make your first home experience stress-free

Buying a home can be stressful for anyone — even more so for those buying their first home. The team at Sterling Homes endeavours to make the process as open, transparent, and supportive as possible to ensure that the home you get is the home that's right for you — now and in the future.

"The biggest thing that we want to do is provide a lot of choice and flexibility," says Erik Eisen, area sales manager for Sterling Homes Edmonton. "We go through the discovery process and really work with the customer to find the features they want for their home, their lifestyle, and their future."

Eisen explained they have four product lines that are popular with first-time home buyers ranging from a three or four-plex town home, to a duplex with front-attached garages, to a rear-detached garage, single family home, to the higher-end front-attached garage single family dwelling.

Essentially, it comes down to the wants and needs of the customer — and seeing the homes really makes all the difference.

"The best thing for a first-time home buyer

is to check out our website (sterlingedmonton.com) and visit one of our sales centres," he says. "As a team, we're friendly and low-pressure. We view ourselves as a conduit. We have a great product and a wealth of knowledge, and we can help buyers find the homes they want."

Eisen said that potential buyers should invest in some time doing research — both on-line and off — to ensure that they have an idea of what the market is like, and the price range of the homes they interested in may lie. He added that Sterling welcomes that type of scrutiny, because they're confident in their product and process.

"We put everything out there. It doesn't matter if our competitors can see it — we want to be transparent as possible," Eisen says. "The more information that the consumer has, the better decision they can make. We combine volume buying power and superior cost controls to deliver the best value in the market."

"People have a lot of choice in the marketplace. We want to be that choice and earn that business by combining choice and flexibility to tailor the home to the buyer."



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Secord Chalet townhomes by Hopewell Residential are sure to suit your tastes, your lifestyle and your budget. With floor plans that range from 1,236 to 1,402 sq. ft. in size, and complete with garages, decks and a welcoming shared greenspace, Secord Chalet is the perfect fit for first-time homebuyers, couples and families.

"All of our townhomes are all so cleverly designed, with the functional living spaces today's homeowners need, along with the stylish fit and finish they want," says Hopewell's marketing manager Nicole McLaws. "And some of our floorplans also benefit from fantastic new three-bedroom options, which is great news if you're seeking an affordable, well-planned, welcoming home for your family."

Secord Chalet's townhomes are priced from the attainable \$290,000s, and are

conveniently located in the established community of Secord, just moments from parks, schools, greenspace and more. With careful attention to design and liveability, plus an unbeatable location, McLaws says Secord Chalet is a natural choice for townhome buyers.

"At Secord Chalet, it's all yours," she says. "We customize a townhome to your personal tastes and lifestyle, with so many options to choose from, plus incredible standard features like nine-foot ceilings, oversized windows, window blinds, and stainless steel appliances."

These coveted west-end townhomes have also just opened a brand new addition to their show home line-up, the A Plan. This cozy and inviting 'café culture' inspired townhome, featuring woods, mixed metals and classic modern lines, brings the nostalgic coffee house comforts home — and is now



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open for viewing.

"We know that people are sure to love our designer-curated finishings, unparalleled style, affordable prices and great design — all in the established community of Secord,"

McLaws says.

For details, visit the show homes at Secord Blvd. & 217th Street or call (780) 757-4388. Visit secordchalet.com for maps and more information.

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It's a great time to buy a home in Edmonton, and the perfect opportunity to find your place to put down roots.

"With the low interest rates and good prices in the housing market, buyers have a rare opportunity to find a wide range of homes at accessible prices," says Wendy Jabusch, Vice President, Edmonton Homes, Brookfield Residential.

There's lots of choice too. Brookfield Residential's five townhome communities across Edmonton are shining examples.

They are well-planned, pet-friendly, community-oriented neighbourhoods, and thoughtfully appointed homes are a great setting to create new connections, get to know your neighbours and gather with friends and family.

With more than 19 models to choose from, Brookfield Residential has something for everyone. From singles to couples and families, you will find your place to call home in these communities.

"At Brookfield we are committed to mak-

ing our cities a better place to live, work and put down roots," states Jabusch. "As a leading builder of affordable homes in Alberta, we are able to meet the diverse needs of our customers, including price point, size, location and amenities."

Haven Townhouses in Edgemont and The Sands Townhouses in Lake Summerside have seen incredible interest so far — both are nearly sold out, so now is the last chance to buy into these family-oriented communities.

Vista Pointe Townhouses in Chappelle Gardens just opened three new show homes for homebuyers to peruse. Meanwhile, Grove on 25th Townhouses in The Orchards will be opening show homes in May, and Canvas Townhouses in Paisley just launched sales, with show homes opening in July.

No matter which Brookfield Residential townhome you go for, you'll have a variety of two- and three-bedroom homes to choose from, with floor plans designed to suit many lifestyles. Many homes are already move-in ready.



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Brookfield Residential homes are incredibly affordable. Pricing varies by community, and starts in the low \$200,000s.

Brookfield Residential also offers a down payment program to help get you into

the home of your dreams. Those who buy between April 9 and May 22 will also be entered to win \$20,000 towards the purchase of their new home.

For more info, visit livebrookfield.com.

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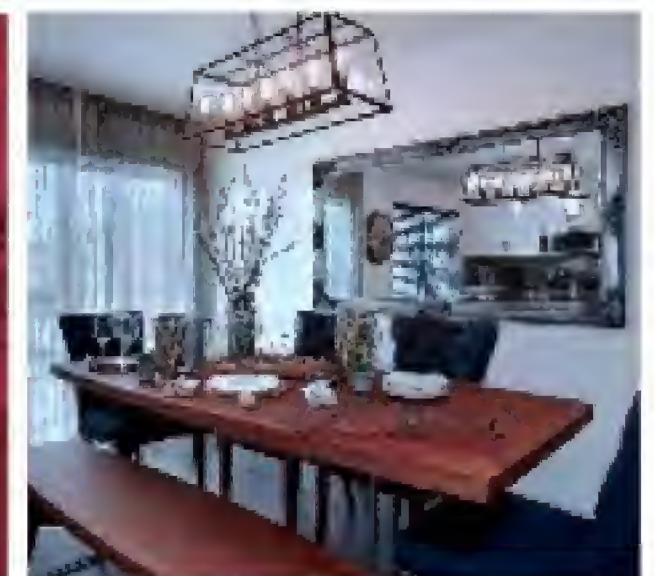
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With two more home runs Wednesday, Robinson Cano became the first Seattle player to hit four homers in the first three games of the season

Oilers run down Canucks

NHL

Final game at Rexall Place won handily by home squad

The Edmonton Oilers gave their fans something to cheer about in their final home game of the regular season.

Patrick Maroon scored twice as the Oilers won at Rexall Place for the final time, beating the Vancouver Canucks 6-2 on Wednesday.

Nail Yakupov, Connor McDavid, Leon Draisaitl and Taylor Hall also scored for the Oilers (31-43-7), who snapped a three-game losing skid.

"It was a really good effort from all fronts," Hall said. "We had some really good goaltending and the special teams that have been letting us down of late were there tonight, huge. It was a good way to finish it off here. It was a fun night with really good electricity in the building. We finished it off right."

McDavid ended up with three points on the night.

"It was a pretty special night," said the rookie centre. "We put on a good game for the last one here, everybody wanted to do that."

Making the win especially important was the poor performance put forward by the team in their second-last game at Rexall, a 5-0 loss to the rival Calgary Flames on Saturday.

WEDNESDAY

6 **2**
OILERS CANUCKS

"We needed to win," said Jordan Eberle, who had two assists. "That was a must-win for us. We knew in the locker-room that we had to come out and play our best, and we did that. We got the points and sent the fans off here well."

Matt Bartkowski and Bo Horvat replied for the Canucks (30-37-13), who saw a three-game winning streak come to an end.

"I just believe if you accept being average, you're going to be average," said Canucks head coach Willie Desjardins. "Tonight we accepted being average. We didn't fight through enough."

The Oilers scored first, 8:27 into the second period when Yakupov brought a puck out of the corner and sent a wrist shot over Vancouver goalie Jacob Markstrom's shoulder for his eighth goal of the season.

Edmonton made it 2-0 with seven minutes left in the second as Maroon picked off an Emerson Etem pass in front of the Vancouver net

and whirled around to score his sixth goal and 12th point in 15 games since joining the Oilers.

The Oilers added to their lead with a power-play goal late in the second as McDavid got to a rebound and was able to poke in his 16th of the season.

The Canucks finally got one past Edmonton goalie Cam Talbot five minutes into the third period as a Bartkowski shot went off the stick of Edmonton defender Adam Pardy and in.

Edmonton bounced back with a pair of goals just 18 seconds apart midway through the third. McDavid started a cycle that ended with Maroon scoring his second on a tip-in, followed quickly by Hall turning on the jets and scoring on a back-hand.

Horvat got one back for the Canucks, walking around a defender for his 15th.

However, Draisaitl scored a power-play goal with less than two minutes remaining, officially recording the final goal scored at Rexall.

The Canucks play in Calgary on Thursday before returning home to face the Oilers again on Saturday in the final game of the season for both teams. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Oilers defenceman Griffin Reinhart levels the Canucks' Alexandre Burrows on Wednesday.

JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

PUGILISM

Fighting falling by wayside in NHL

Shawn Thornton used to scan the roster of his team's next opponent for players he might have to fight, but in today's NHL that's no longer necessary.

It's a new reality embraced by the 38-year-old one-time enforcer.

"I'm OK with not having to lose sleep every single night," Thornton said.

Fights have plummeted nearly 50 per cent from only five years ago, according to HockeyFights.com, a stunning

reversal for a league that has long contemplated fighting's place in the game.

The NHL is on pace for about 300 fewer fights from the 2010-11 season, a 47 per cent drop, and nearly 400 fewer scraps from the more than 730 of two years before that. In fact, the NHL is likely to see fewer fights this season, about 345, than the 347 during the lock-out-shortened 48-game campaign in 2013.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Habs shut down Price

Carey Price felt he was close to a return to the Montreal Canadiens net, but didn't feel quite good enough to play in one of the final two games of the regular season.

So after meeting with team doctors and management, the star goaltender and reigning NHL most valuable player decided his season was over.

"We just ran out of time at the end of the season," said Price, who played in just 12 games this season.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blackhawks call Bickell up

The banged-up Chicago Blackhawks have recalled forward Bryan Bickell from Rockford of the American Hockey League.

The 30-year-old Bickell has spent much of this season with the IceHogs after helping Chicago win the Stanley Cup last year. The rugged winger, who signed a \$16-million, four-year deal in 2013, has 65 goals and 70 assists in 382 NHL games, all with the Blackhawks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAST PLACE

Leafs' loss to Jackets boosts lottery odds

The Toronto Maple Leafs helped their chances of winning the upcoming draft lottery by falling to the Columbus Blue Jackets on Wednesday night.

The Leafs can finish no higher than 29th place overall after dropping a 5-1 decision to the Blue Jackets in their final home game of the season. Now solely alone in last place after an Edmonton win against Vancouver, Toronto will have either the best odds of landing the No. 1 overall pick (20 per cent) or the

WEDNESDAY In Toronto

5 **1**
JACKETS LEAFS

second-best odds (13.5 per cent).

Brandon Saad, Brandon Dubinsky, with two, Oliver Bjorkstrand and Matt Calvert scored for Columbus. Morgan Rielly found the back of the net for Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

McLeod to miss Olympics

SOCCER

Local 'keeper says 2 years could be lost with ACL injury



Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

Erin McLeod delivered the "heartbreaking" news on Wednesday, saying in a statement from Canada Soccer that she will not be available for the 2016 Summer Olympics due to a torn ACL injury suffered in a recent Champions League match.

"The biggest question is the Olympics and because I have already had two operations it makes a third one, well, extremely complicated," McLeod,

the goalkeeper for Canada's women's national soccer team, said in a statement.

"What I know for sure is I won't be ready for August. My surgical options mean it will take between one and two years to come back, and there are no guarantees, as there never really are in life."

"This news was of course heartbreaking because going to the Olympics is a dream as well as an honour. This Olympic team is one that will excite you, I know for me, it feels like I have been waiting for this group my whole career. The people on this team work harder than any other people I know, and, well, I know they will give anything for the emblem on their chests."

The Canadian women's team, which earned a bronze medal in 2012 in London, has already qualified for the Rio Olympics.

115

McLeod, a 33-year-old from St. Albert has made 115 appearances for Canada, with 43 clean sheets.



Erin McLeod backstopped Canada at last summer's Women's World Cup here in Canada.

MINAS PANAGIOTAKIS/GETTY IMAGES

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Reality check for Madrid

Wolfsburg caused the biggest upset of this season's Champions League with a 2-0 victory over record 10-time winner Real Madrid in the first leg of their quarterfinal on Wednesday.

Making only its second appearance in the competition and playing its first quarterfinal, Wolfsburg outmuscled and outran the Spanish giant to give itself a clear chance of advancing after next Tuesday's second leg at the Bernabeu.

"We are in a good position, we can always score a goal," Wolfsburg's coach Dieter Hecking said. "We wanted to unnerve them a little, and we succeeded."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Cristiano Ronaldo
GETTY IMAGES

SURVEY

Canadians no longer catching cup fever

For the first time since 1970, Canada's NHL teams have been entirely shut out from the Stanley Cup playoffs, which could throw a heavy hit on viewership north of the border, a new Angus Reid Institute survey suggests.

The absence of Canadian teams means 54 per cent of fans who would usually watch the NHL post-season say they will either watch less playoff hockey this year or won't even watch at all, according to the online survey of 1,522 Canadians conducted from March 28 to 31.

Last week, the Ottawa Senators were the final Canadian team to be mathematically eliminated from contention, ensuring that for a 23rd consecutive year, a Canadian team will not win the Stanley Cup.

For most Canadian teams, specifically Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg and Toronto, the stretch drive has been less about playoffs and more about dropping to the bottom of the standings for the best chance

at landing the first overall pick in the 2016 NHL Draft — also known as the Auston Matthews sweepstakes.

According to the survey, not having a Canadian team in the playoffs could have a substantial impact on the number of "diehard fans" who choose to tune in.

Of the 131 people who identified as "diehard fans," 47 per cent said they would watch less playoffs this year. Twelve per cent said they won't watch at all.

"I think that just goes to show how closely diehard hockey fans in this country identify this as Canada's game," Shachi Kurl, executive director for the ARI, told Metro.

Still, almost 200 Canadian players will compete for the Stanley Cup on playoff teams this spring.

The Florida Panthers, with former Canuck Roberto Luongo as their star goalie, and the St. Louis Blues lead the way each with 16 Canadian players on their rosters.

CAM TUCKER/METRO



26%

Which of the seven Canadian teams do you think will be the first one to break this streak and win the Cup?

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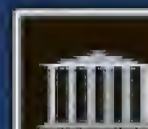
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DAILY REFRESHMENT



Edmonton
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RECIPE Black Bean & Tuna Wrap

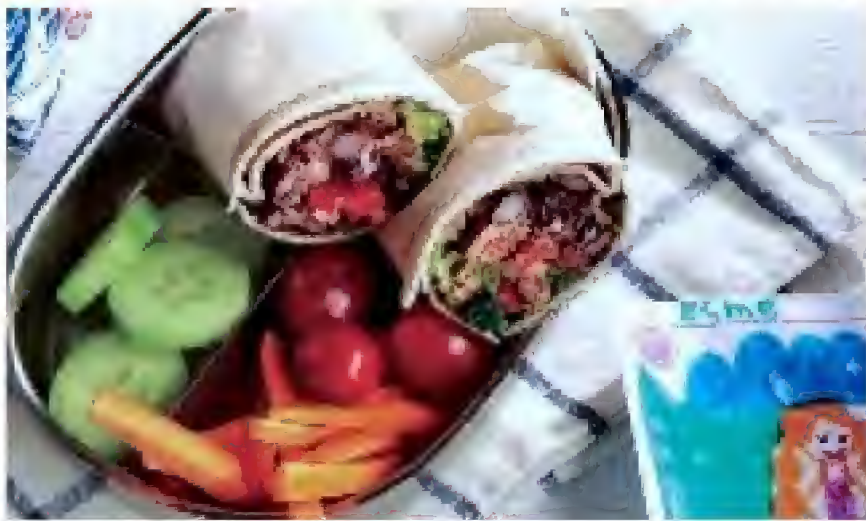
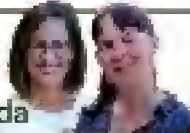


PHOTO: MARY WISNIE

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada



This protein-packed wrap makes an easy, healthy dinner.

Ready in

Prep time: 30 minutes
Total time: 35 minutes

Ingredients

- 1 x 19 oz. can of black beans, drained
- 1 x 5 oz. can of tuna
- 1/2 cup chopped fresh tomato
- 1/2 cup chopped red pepper
- 1/4 cup finely chopped red onion
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 3 Tbsps lime juice
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 2 handfuls of chopped lettuce, washed and dried well
- 1/2 an avocado, sliced
- 4 tortilla wraps

Directions

1. In a large bowl, toss together

er beans, tuna, onions, peppers, oil, lime juice and salt and pepper. Cover and place in the fridge for half an hour or overnight for the flavours to combine and develop.

2. When you're ready to assemble your wraps take your bowl out of the fridge, add your chopped cilantro and stir.

3. Lay your tortillas out on your work surface.

4. Place your lettuce down first (this will keep your tortilla from getting soggy), then scoop the tuna on top, and add a few slices of avocado. Make a rectangle of filling in the middle of your wrap. Pull one side of your wrap over the filling and tuck it in snugly. Now fold over both ends of the wrap. Keep rolling it over until it's closed. Slice in half and serve.

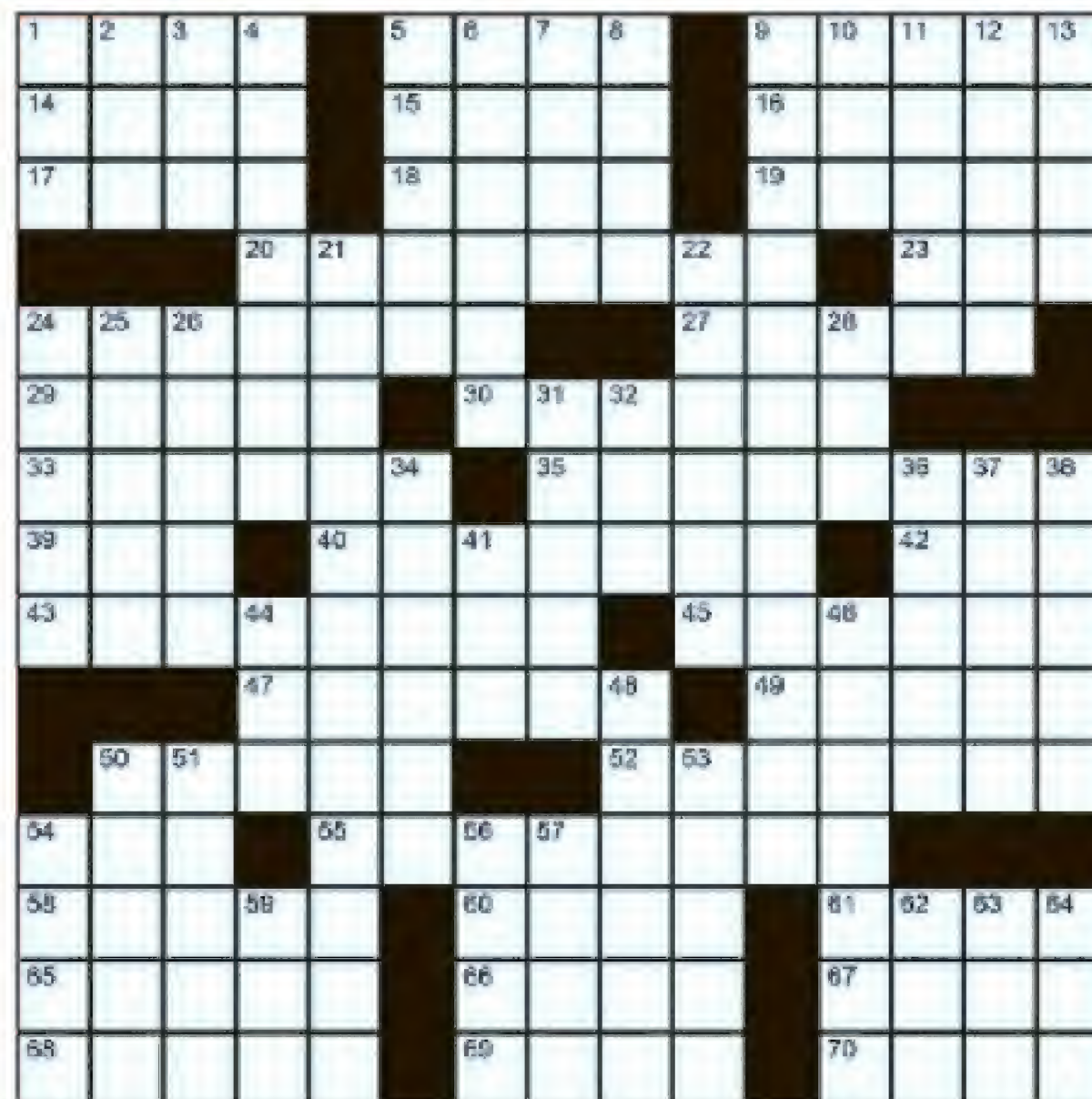
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CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Wooden wedge
5. Sea lettuce
9. "What am I, chopped _?"
14. Verdi opera
15. Sci. class
16. Dispatch boat
17. Ringing reverberation
18. Mini medians
19. Baker role in #61-Across
20. 11:00pm, for instance: 2 wds.
23. Social pages word
24. Fab Four, for one
27. Canada _ (CBC's annual books competition)
29. Regular
30. Woodstock salutes
33. Of the body's major artery
35. Rules of conduct
39. Shiba _ (Dog breed of Japan)
40. Pamplona's locale in northern Spain
42. Muesli tidbit
43. Drop in rank
45. Sacred place
47. Gilligan's boat, S.S. _
49. Ancient Greek colony
50. Joe of "JFK" (1991)
52. The _ (Novel by #9-Down which is the 2016 winner of #27-Across)
54. Abitibi article
55. 1934: Montreal Neurological Institute founder, Dr. Wilder _



- (b.1891 - d.1976)
58. Express
60. Sports car, _ Romeo
61. " _ Rider" (1969)
65. Latin for 'I believe'
66. Enter: 2 wds.
67. _ & The Bunny-men

68. Russian ballet company
69. Hobbyist's purchases
70. Actor, Oliver _

DOWN

1. Maple's meal
2. "Speed it up, stallion!"

3. US 'Gem State', briefly
4. Shopping centre regular's nickname
5. Decrease
6. It keeps a censor ready with the bleep button: 2 wds.
7. Van _ Vincent
8. Besides

9. Newmarket, Ontario born author (More at #27-Across and #52-Across): 2 wds.
10. Climber of the quoin
11. Choice dish
12. Rob of '90210"
13. Automatic
21. Nfld., for one:

- 2 wds.
22. Cheering-on people
24. Randy of "The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz" (1974)
25. "Can you give _ moment, please?" (Making-a-decision couple's request)
26. Latin for 'gold'
28. Peer Gynt's mother
31. Actors Joe or Vincent
32. Odd, briefly
34. Ms. Kazan of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" (2016)
36. Fist, in France
37. Actress Ms. Raymonde
38. Bargain
41. " _ Ryan's Express" (1965) starring Frank Sinatra
44. Mantric syllables
46. Antlered creature of European woodlands: 2 wds.
48. Nintendo's getting-in-shape offering, _ _ Plus
50. Science dish
51. 'Poly' add-on (Synthetic fabric)
53. Angles
54. Good fortune
56. Harps
57. Sight-of-ice in The Arctic
59. Japan's capital's old name
62. Expert
63. " _ Devil" (1969)
64. Greeted, Rocky-style

***IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake**

Aries March 21 - April 20
Today the only New Moon in your sign all year is taking place. That's why this is the best day to take a realistic look in the mirror to see how you can improve your image.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
A hidden epiphany or a sudden idea likely will occur to you today. Listen to what it is, because it might help you.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
This is the only New Moon all year regarding friendships for you. Are you happy with your friendships? Do your friends care about your welfare? Think about this.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
This is perhaps the best day of the year to think about your life direction. Are you headed in the direction you want to go? Are your goals really your goals?

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
What further training can you get to improve your job? What further travel and education might enrich your life? Think about this today.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Today's New Moon urges you to study your debt and anything that has to do with shared property. Figure out what you owe and what you own, because information is power.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Today is the only New Moon that is opposite your sign all year. This means it's the best day of the year to think how you can improve your partnerships and close friendships.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Today's New Moon is an opportunity to think about how you can be more efficient at work. It's also the perfect time to think about how you can improve your health.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
How well do you balance play and work in your life? It's crazy to work so hard that you never enjoy life. "What's it all about, Alfie?"

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
The New Moon today is your chance to make resolutions about how to improve your home, as well as how to improve your relationship with family members. Ideas?

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Communication with others is important because we are social creatures. Do you listen as well as speak? How can you be a better communicator?

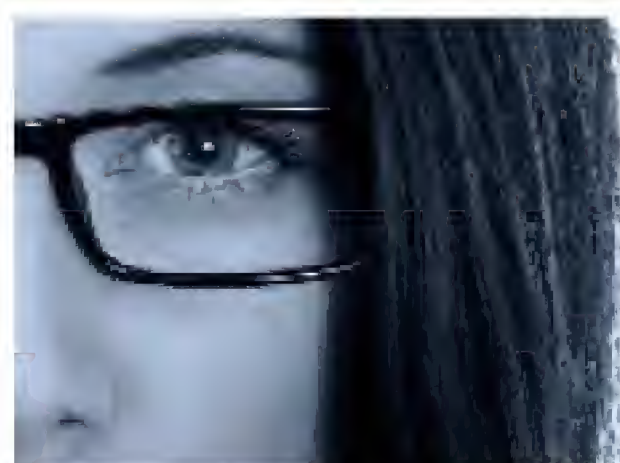
Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Today's New Moon encourages you to think about how you handle your money and your possessions. What kind of report card would you give yourself?

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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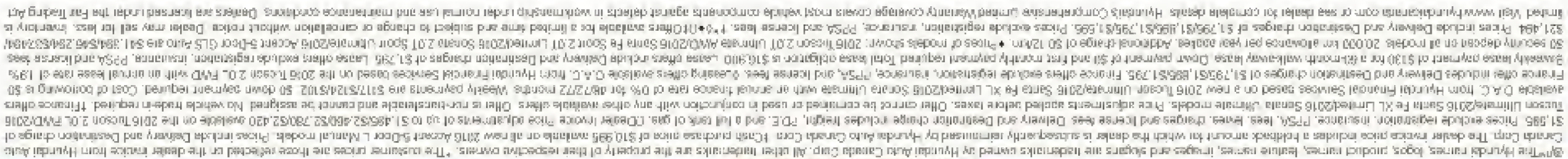
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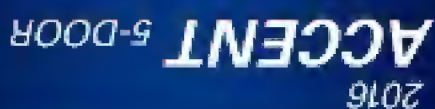
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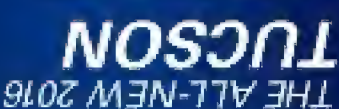
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Should you buy an SUV?



Land Rovers are one of the many SUVs Canadian love. CONTRIBUTED



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+ BEST SELLER

The Ford Escape was Canada's top-selling SUV in 2015, considering three rows. If you are in hidden storage areas.

There are still a few station wagons on the market, including the Volkswagen Golf Sportswagon, BMW 3 Series Touring, and upcoming Mercedes-Benz C-Class Wagon.

Current crop on display at the Edmonton Motor Show

Jill McIntosh

We talk about "car culture," but in reality, what Canadians really love is the SUV. They're available in everything from compact to full-size, and with two or three rows of seats. The segment has become so popular that even Jaguar and Bentley are introducing their versions of sport utility vehicles. Buyers can't seem to get enough of the interior space, cargo capacity, and tall seating positions that SUVs offer.

Much of the current crop of SUVs is on display at the Edmonton Motor Show, but that isn't all. Exactly what makes an SUV is open to debate, and the segment can include crossovers — originally cars with higher ride height, but a name now often used interchangeably with SUV by manufacturers — and minivans. No matter what you call them, consider these points when you're looking for one.

Not all 4WD/AWD systems are the same

If a model offers four-wheel drive or all-wheel drive, be sure you know what you're getting. Full-size SUVs based on pickup truck platforms, such as the Chevrolet Suburban, Ford Expedition or Toyota Sequoia, or off-road vehicles like the Jeep Wrangler, can be switched from rear-wheel drive to four-wheel drive. Only those that have "4WD Auto" send power to all four wheels on hard surfaces. Some all-wheel systems send power to all four wheels drive, but transfer power to the rear wheels when necessary.

They handle differently than a car

An SUV's taller height can mean better visibility, but you will have to get used to that higher centre of gravity if you've only ever driven a car. None of them really feel "tippy," anymore, but they do react differently in sharp turns or emergency manoeuvres.

Do you need three rows of seats?

If you don't regularly take that many passengers, the two-row version, if available, may be a better choice, especially since the space otherwise taken up by the third rating, if that's what you require.

Can you tow with it?

If you're planning on using your SUV to move your boat, camper or ATV trailer, check the specifications first to be sure it can handle it. The highest towing and payload ratings are usually found on SUVs that are based on truck platforms. You may also have to order a special towing package to get the vehicle's maximum tow

What about alternative-drive models?

There currently aren't any pure electric SUVs, but you can get some with hybrid drivelines, such as the Toyota Highlander Hybrid, Infiniti QX60 Hybrid, and Lexus RX450H. The sporty and luxurious Porsche Cayenne S E-Hybrid operates mostly as a conventional hybrid, but can be plugged in to provide a short period of battery-only driving.

What about a minivan?

They're nowhere near as popular as they once were, but minivans can be a great choice for families, and in many cases, they're better than an SUV for ease of getting in and out, or loading up cargo. For 2017, Chrysler will replace its popular Dodge Grand Caravan and Chrysler Town & Country twins with the all-new Chrysler Pacifica minivan. Other choices are the Honda Odyssey, Kia Sedona, and Toyota Sienna, the only minivan available with all-wheel drive. If those are all too big, look at "mini-minivan" models like the Mazdas or the three-row Kia Niro. Or for something different, consider the wagon versions of commercial vehicles like the Ford Transit Connect or Mercedes-Benz Metris.

Some require the flexibility of a gymnasium to squeeze back there, and second-row seats are far easier than others to flip and fold for access, and depending on how they're positioned over the rear axle, some third-row seats offer a lot more legroom and headroom than others.

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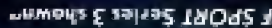


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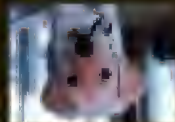
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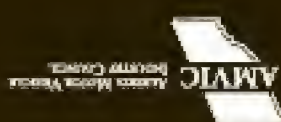
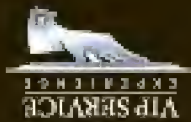
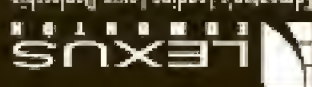
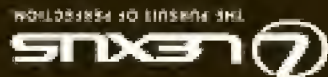
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[illegible]

What to look for in a car

cut into your neck (most can be adjusted where they're attached to the side pillar). When you're in the proper driving position, you should be able to easily reach all the controls.

try getting in and out of all the seats. This is especially important if you have passengers with reduced mobility, since some door sills can be high and hard to step over. If you'll be carrying small children, be sure you can reach all the seatbelts to buckle them in.

but it can also be tricky in the short time you'll be sitting in the vehicle. Cushy feels nice at first, but these seats may be too soft and can leave you with an achy back, even just after a short drive. Conversely, harder seats — typically the type you find in German vehicles — can provide the support needed to

stay comfortable over long distances. Open the trunk or liftgate. If you're short, be sure you can reach up for the hatch to close it. Check the "liftover" height, which is how far up over the bumper you have to hoist your grocery bags to put them in. If it's too high, it'll be a real chore.

If the rear seats fold for more cargo space, are they easy to put up and down? Do they fall flat, or is there a ridge? Finally, look at the trim lines to see what features you want. Some automakers offer "all-in" trim levels, while others let you add specific options or packages. And be cautious when compar-

ing entry-level economy models. Some automakers leave air conditioning off the base trim down, and it may cost less to buy a higher-priced competitor equipped with it than to add air to the lower-cost one.

**Get a deal
at the car
auction**

You can't buy a new car at the Edmonton Motor Show, but you can go home with an older one at the sixth annual Edmonton Collector Car Auction. Presented by EC Auctions, the event runs Friday, Saturday and Sunday and is located within the show. More than 150 cars, trucks and motor-

cycles will be up for grabs, along with automotive memorabilia.

with great deals, it's also easy to get carried away. There's definitely an art to being a successful bidder.

to kneel down and check the underside for rust or other potential problems. Open the doors, hood and trunk, if possible, to check the car's condition. Don't ignore major issues just because it's the car you've always wanted, because fixing them can be very expensive. Check the auction website.

for payment information. Getting a bank letter of guarantee beforehand will make it easier if you plan to pay with a cheque.

Most vehicles will have a reserve, meaning a minimum amount that bids must reach before it can be sold. Those listed at "no reserve" go for

Determine the maximum you want to pay, and stick to it. Remember that the final price will actually be higher than your winning bid, because you'll have to pay a buyer's fee (at this auction, it's 7 per cent on cars, and 15 per cent on art).

cent on memorabilia. Once "your" car crosses the block and the bidding starts, it's very easy to go beyond your budget if someone keeps bidding against you.

• The auction runs on Friday, April 8 from 5 to 9 p.m.; on Saturday, April 9 from noon to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, April 10

- Friday is primarily the memorabilia sale with some vehicles offered, while Saturday and Sunday are the car sales
- For more information, visit TheElectricGarage.com

It's common to overestimate the space needed in a vehicle

see them, they're all here under one roof.

You can't test-drive them, of course, and you'll need to do that before you make your ultimate decision. But the auto show gives you a chance to compare numerous models and narrow down the list of vehicles you'll later drive from dealer to dealer to the best place to visit. Rather than vehicle, the auto show is the place you're in the market for a new car.

Jill McIntosh

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A close-up, front-three-quarter view of a white Chevrolet Silverado truck. The image shows the front grille with the Chevrolet bowtie logo, the headlights, and the front wheel. The truck is parked on a light-colored surface, and the background is slightly blurred.

HONDAMANIA























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The auto show allows for a thorough comparison between cars. CONTRIBUTED



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Maserati Quattroporte, MASERATI

What luxury driving is all about

LEATHER, WOOD INTERIORS

Premium vehicles traditionally introduce high-end features

Jill McIntosh

Just about everyone loves luxury, and there's plenty of that to see at the Edmonton Motor Show. But just what defines a luxury vehicle?

In the earliest days of the automobile, cars were an expensive luxury, even if they were very plain. But as they became more reliable and opened specifically for luxury cars. These usually had larger engines, fancier styling, and

more opulent interiors, as compared to cheaper models. That's often still the case, with vehicles such as the Maserati Quattroporte, with its jewel-like knurled control knobs and soft leather trim, or the all-new Lincoln Continental and its 30-way power-adjustable seats. Luxury can also meet top-notch performance in vehicles like the Ferrari 488 GTB, with its 660-horsepower twin-turbo V8, or Lamborghini's Huracán

Spyder, with its ten-cylinder engine. But luxury isn't just about granted on almost all cars, such as power windows or heated mirrors, were originally reserved for high-end vehicles, along with more recent features, including automatic climate control, navigation, heated seats, and heated steering wheels, which are found on many moderately-priced models.

Along with traditional luxury brands such as Jaguar, on less-expensive vehicles. Such things that we take for granted on almost all cars, such as power windows or heated mirrors, were originally reserved for high-end vehicles, along with more recent features, including automatic climate control, navigation, heated seats, and heated steering wheels, which are found on many moderately-

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2016 CX5 GX

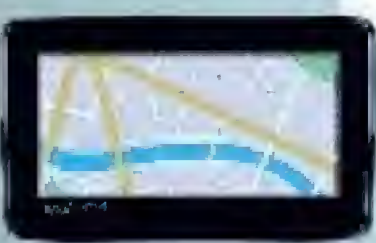
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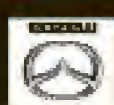
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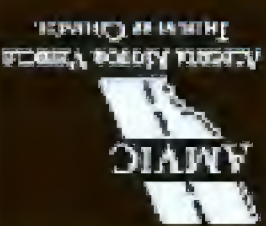


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How to improve fuel economy

you can, right to the horizon if possible. You'll see stopped or turning vehicles well in advance, potentially giving you the opportunity to smoothly change lanes and go around them, rather than stopping and starting again.

Coast whenever you can

Rather than keep your foot on the throttle until it's time to brake for red lights, take it off and decelerate to the stop. It'll help make your brakes last longer, too.

Stay smooth on the throttle

If you're constantly on-the-gas, off-the-gas, on-the-gas when trying to maintain your speed, you're using a lot of that gas. You're also annoying your passengers!

Check your tire pressure

Underinflated tires don't roll as easily, and they use more fuel. Check them at least once a month, using the recommended pressure that you'll find on a label inside the door jamb or in your owner's manual.

Don't go by the number on the tire, which is the maximum pressure the tire can hold.

Un-junk the trunk

Don't carry more than you need. It takes extra fuel to move that extra weight around. That includes snow in winter driving, too: cleaning heavy accumulation off your car is not only safer but can help save fuel.

Smooth acceleration uses less fuel and helps reduce wear and tear on vehicle components.

more often than you do now. But even if you're not in the market for something new, you can still make a dent in your fuel purchases. While we like to think of ourselves as good drivers, the reality is that almost all of us could get even better fuel efficiency, by changing some of our driving habits.

Try these out and prepare to sail past the gas station

Always look ahead as far as **Vision is important**

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Automakers trying to squeeze best fuel economy from vehicles

SHOPPING FOR VEHICLES

constantly trying to squeeze better fuel economy out of their vehicles. Not only do they have to meet government fuel efficiency and emissions standards, but it's an important factor for many consumers when they're shopping for vehicles as well.



Just think of the long-term savings. iStock

Don't get sucked in by a gas guzzler

TIPS

The last thing you want to do while gas prices are low is sabotage your savings by driving a gas guzzler. Consider these tips from Natural Resources Canada for buying a greener, more fuel-efficient vehicle. The long-term savings will be worth it.

1. In most cases, the smaller the vehicle, the better. Don't buy a large vehicle if you do not need it. Rent a trailer or larger vehicle when needed for hauling heavier cargo or more passengers.
2. Consider a manual transmission. Manual transmissions are generally more fuel-efficient than automatics, especially combined with a tachometer or shift indicator.
3. Gear up an automatic transmission. The more gears the better. Ask about a Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) that uses belts and pulleys for an infinite amount of gears.
4. Simplify your drivetrain. Four-wheel and all-wheel drives are less efficient, adding up to an extra 10 percent to fuel consumption. Unless need more fuel-efficient alternative, two-wheel drives are your 5. Rein in the horsepower. This can be tricky. A mid-sized car with a two-litre, four-cylinder engine burns about 2,066 litres every 20,000 kilometres. The same car with a three-litre, six-cylinder engine burns 2,214 litres - 178 litres more.
6. Avoid unnecessary extras. Car-starters, air conditioning and roof racks can increase fuel consumption.
7. Request fuel-efficient features. Aluminum wheels, a block heater, cruise control, navigation systems, removable roof racks, sun roof, tachometer, tinted windows and trip computers have the potential to reduce fuel use.
8. Consult an impartial, trusted source. Natural Resources Canada, The Canadian Automobile Association and others can provide unbiased tips on their websites.

NEWS CANADA



Fuel economy an important factor for consumers when car shopping. iStock



Underinflated tires don't roll as easily, and they use more fuel. iStock

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What's new in the world of trucks

OFF-ROAD UPGRADES

Lots of new features added to 2016 models

Jil McIntosh

Edmonton isn't just an auto show; it's all about trucks, too. Here's a rundown of what's new on the truck side.

The Ford F-150 is essentially unchanged for 2016, but two all-new trucks will arrive later this year as 2017 models: the Super Duty and Raptor. As with the F-150, both will use an aluminum body and high-strength-steel frame. The Super Duty will feature gasoline and diesel engines, while the Raptor will use a turbocharged V6 engine that's more powerful and efficient than the V8 engine it replaces.

General Motors makes several exterior styling changes and adds some new features to its full-size Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra. On select trim lines, the available 5.3-litre V8 now uses an eight-speed automatic transmission. The midsize Chevrolet Colorado and GMC Canyon can now be ordered with a 2.8-litre Duramax turbodiesel engine, in addition to a four-cylinder or V6 gasoline engine.

Honda recently presented the Canadian debut of its all-new 2017 Ridgeline. While it retains its unibody construction and 3.5-litre V6 engine, its styling is now more that of a conventional pickup. Its in-bed locking truck and two-way tailgate remain, but for the first time, it will be available in front-wheel drive as well as all-wheel drive, and will offer an available industry-first, in-bed audio system.

Nissan debuts the all-new Titan XD, which bridges the gap between light-duty and heavy-duty trucks. Carrying a Cummins 5.0-litre V8 diesel engine, the Titan XD can tow up to 12,000 lbs. when properly equipped. The Titan is also available as an all-new half-ton, which rides on a chassis that's different from the XD's frame, and is powered by a choice of V6 or V8 gasoline engines.

Ram undergoes some minor styling changes for 2016, including a new centre console, and unique grille styling on its two new trim levels, the Laramie Limited and Rebel. As before, the Ram 1500 offers an available 3.0-litre



Ford Raptor. FORD



Honda Ridgeline. JIL MCINTOSH/FOR METRO

diesel engine in addition to gasoline choices.

Toyota has an all-new Tacoma for 2016, with new styl-

ing, more capability, and an off-road package with crawl control. Its available, segment-first 3.5-litre V6 engine

automatically and seamlessly adjusts its valve timing to a fuel-saving Atkinson cycle when full power isn't needed.

The full-size Tundra gains a new TRD Pro Series off-road trim level, with exclusive remote reservoir suspension

kit, dual exhaust, skid plate, 18-inch black alloy wheels, premium stereo, and unique TRD interior trim.

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The first 1908 McLaughlin; a decade later they were almost made in Edmonton. JIL MCINTOSH

The early days of motoring

Jil McIntosh

If you're in the market for a car, a trip to the Edmonton Motor Show is the way to go. It's certainly a lot easier than what drivers faced back in the earliest driving days.

The first car in Edmonton was a 1903 Ford Model A, owned by Joseph Morris. He saw it in Winnipeg while on a business trip, and brought it back with him on the train on May 25, 1904.

This earliest Model A, not to be confused with the more famous 1928 Model A, was the fledgling Ford Motor Company's first production vehicle.

The car cost around \$850, but its headlights and horn were exchange options. An engine self-starter was still almost a decade away, and Morris had to manually crank the engine to start it up. An effective antifreeze mixture was also still in the future, and it's probable that when the weather turned cold, he would have drained the water from the radiator after driving it and refilled it the next time he wanted to take it out.

His tires had no tread—that wouldn't arrive until 1905—and he had a prototype driven from Ontario-built McLaughlin, and he had a license to locally make the business, W.J. Magrath, wanted to Calgary. In 1919, an Edmonton two days to drive from Edmonton had to put their own numbers on their cars. The story goes that when he was stopped for not having his, Morris said a broomstick propped up in back formed the number 1. It probably isn't true, but it's a neat tale nevertheless.

It's likely that on any long trip, he would have at least one tire go flat and need replacement. He also drove it from the right-hand side, since Ford wouldn't start putting the steering wheel on the left for another five years. The car had a top speed of about 48 km/h, but many motorists seldom got to drive that fast. The roads of the day were less than ideal, and it usually took two days to drive from Edmonton to Calgary. In 1919, an Edmonton businessman, W.J. Magrath, wanted to locally make the business, W.J. Magrath, wanted to Calgary. In 1919, an Edmonton two days to drive from Edmonton had to put their own numbers on their cars. The story goes that when he was stopped for not having his, Morris said a broomstick propped up in back formed the number 1. It probably isn't true, but it's a neat tale nevertheless.



Joseph Morris' 1903 Ford was the first car in Edmonton. CONTRIBUTED

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This weekend's event features the latest models of sports cars, luxury vehicles, and trucks and SUVs. CONTRIBUTED

The auto show rolls in

IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

Check out lots of makes and models before going to a dealer

Jill McIntosh

charge up your phone, because you're going to want to jot down what you like and don't like, and take pictures for comparison. This isn't the final decision, but doing your homework here at the show will help you shortlist the ones that you will later test-drive during your dealership visits.

But even if you're not in the market for a new vehicle, the show is already spoken for this year, but drop by the company's booth and dream.

You can enter a contest to win a new 2016 Jeep Cherokee, and on Saturday, April 9, drop by Toyota's booth to meet the stars of Discovery's Highway Thru Hell (2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.).

The Edmonton Motor Show boasts the largest aftermarket area of any show in Canada, where you can find everything from truck accessories and custom cars, to themed apparel and tires. Those in the trades will

New cars, old cars, exotics and accessories: the Edmonton Motor Show has it all. With more than half a million square feet of displays, all in one building, it's a great event for the whole family. All of the major auto manufacturers are on hand, showing almost every vehicle currently on the market. While you can't actually test-drive the new models, it's a great opportunity to cross-shop all of your potential choices under one roof.

This is where you can get behind the wheel to check for comfort and visibility, to try all the seats for ease of entry, to scope out the cargo capacity, and to see what "gotta-have-it" options are available. Bring a notebook and



Edmonton. PHOTO COURTESY BENTLEY

want to check out the Commercial Zone to see what's new in the world of work vehicles, while the Auto Exotica appeals to anyone who's ever dreamed of driving down the road in a supercar.

And if you want to take home the ultimate souvenir, GE Auctions presents the Annual Collector Car Auction from Friday to Sunday. More than 150 cars, trucks and motorcycles will be up for grabs, along with automemorable. It's all part of Edmonton's best auto event, and you don't want to miss it.



+ AUTO SHOW DETAILS

The show runs from Thursday, April 7 until Sunday, April 10 at the Edmonton Expo Centre (7515 118 Ave NW). Hours are 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., except for Sunday, when it closes at 6 p.m.

Admission is \$15 for adults, \$13 for seniors and students, and free for children 6 and under. A family pass (2 adults, 2 children) is \$36. Avoid the lines by buying online at EdmontonMotorShow.com.

For up-to-the-minute information, follow the show on Facebook at EdmontonMotorShow, and on Twitter @yegmotorshow.

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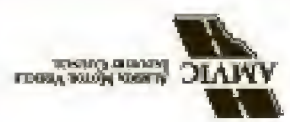
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